SPORTS REVIEW

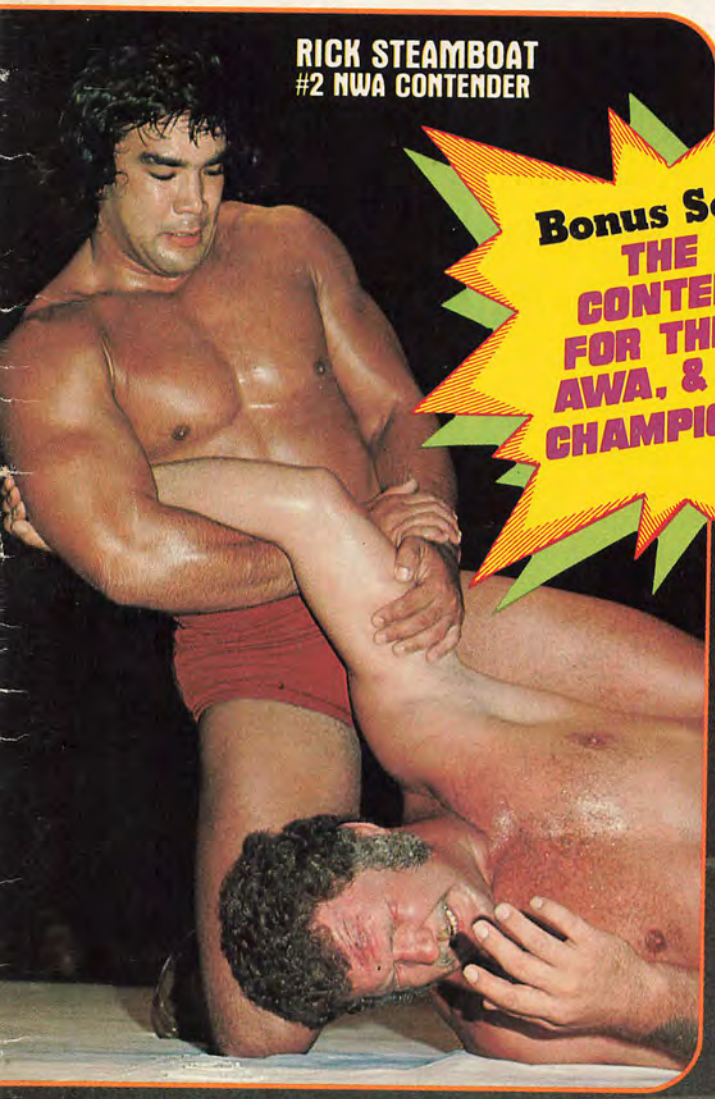
Wrestling

1978 ANNUAL

WINTER 1978

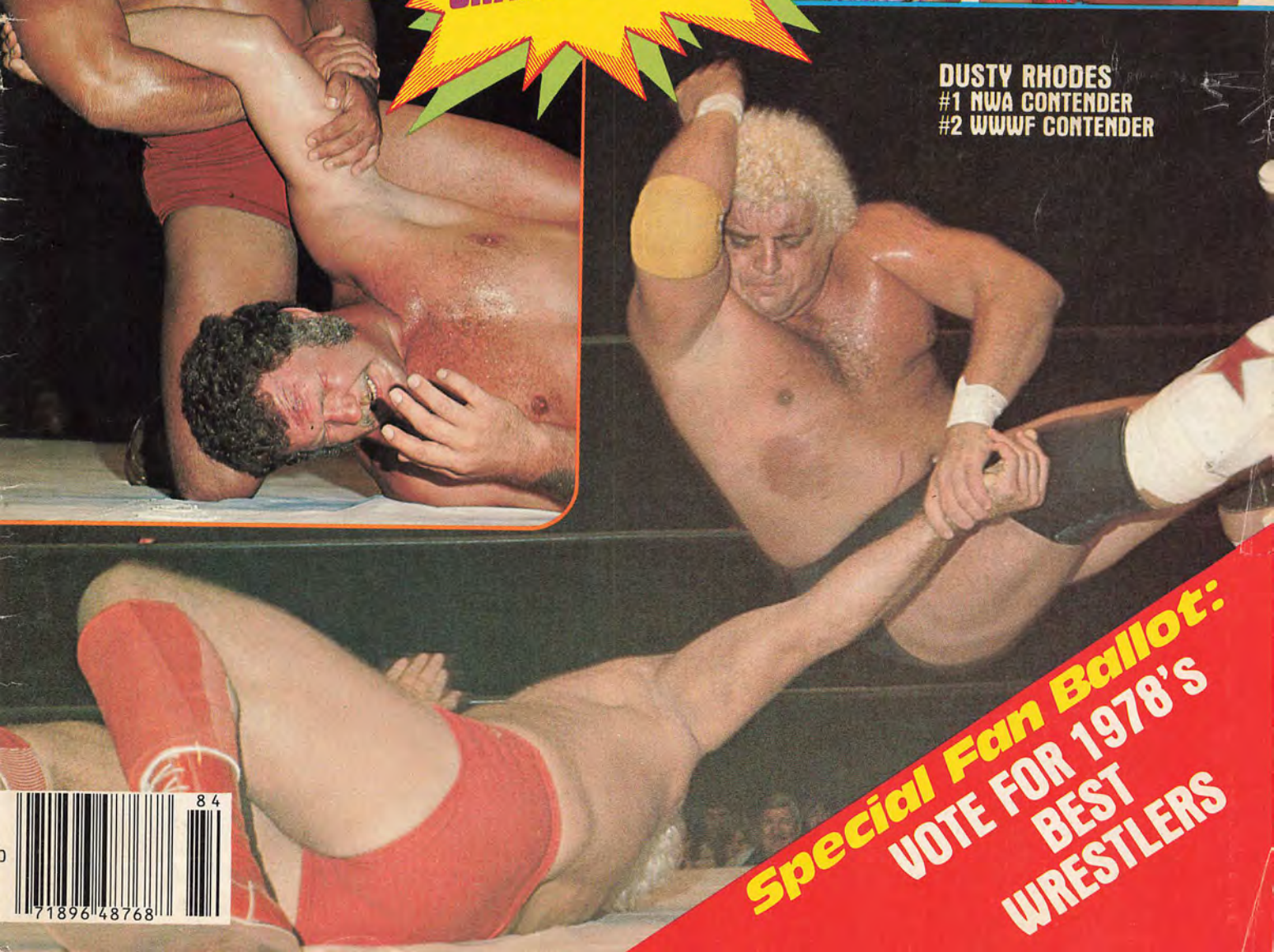
48768 $1.00

Violent Conclusion:
IS APARTMENT WRESTLING BECOMING TOO BRUTAL?



RICK STEAMBOAT
#2 NWA CONTENDER

Bonus Section:
THE TOP CONTENDERS FOR THE NWA, AWA, & WWWF CHAMPIONSHIPS!



DUSTY RHODES
#1 NWA CONTENDER
#2 WWWF CONTENDER

Special Fan Ballot:
VOTE FOR 1978'S BEST WRESTLERS

84
71896 48768

when I planned to **retire before**

this is the business that made it possible

Starting with borrowed money, in just eight years I gained financial security, sold out at a profit and retired.

"Not until I was forty did I make up my mind that I was going to retire before ten years had passed. I knew I couldn't do it on a salary, no matter how good. I knew I couldn't do it working for others. It was perfectly obvious to me that I had to start a business of my own. But that posed a problem. What kind of business? Most of my money was tied up. Temporarily I was broke. But, when I found the business I wanted I was able to start it for a small amount of borrowed money.

"To pyramid this investment into retirement in less than ten years seems like magic, but in my opinion any man in good health who has the same ambition and drive that motivated me, could achieve such a goal. Let me give you a little history.

"I finished high school at the age of 18 and got a job as a shipping clerk. My next job was butchering at a plant that processed boneless beef. Couldn't see much future there. Next, I got a job as a Greyhound Bus Driver. The money was good. The work was pleasant, but I couldn't see it as leading to retirement. Finally I took the plunge and went into business for myself.

"I managed to raise enough money with my savings to invest in a combination motel, restaurant, grocery, and service station. It didn't take long to get my eyes opened. In order to keep that business going my wife and I worked from dawn to dusk, 20 hours a day, seven days a week. Putting in all those hours didn't match my idea of independence and it gave me no time for my favorite sport—golf! Finally we both agreed that I should look for something else.

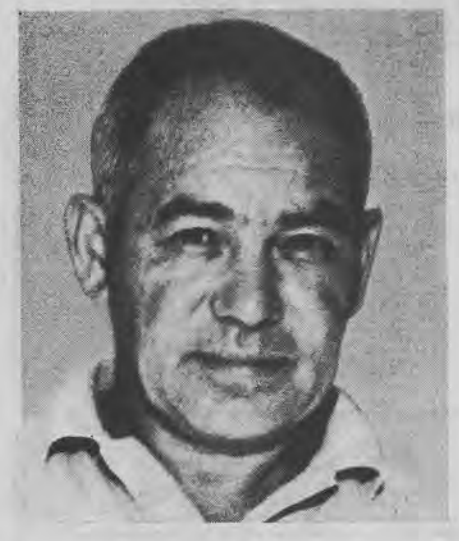
"I found it. Not right away. I investigated a lot of businesses offered as franchises. I felt that I wanted the guidance of an experienced company—wanted to have the benefit of the plans that had brought success to others, plus the benefit of running my own business under an established name that had national recognition.

"Most of the franchises offered were too costly for me. Temporarily all my capital was frozen in the motel. But I found that the Duraclean franchise offered me exactly what I had been looking for.

"I could start for a small amount. (Today, as little as $1985 starts a Duraclean dealership.) I could work it as a one-man business to start. No salaries to pay. I could operate from my home. No office or shop or other overhead. For transportation, I could use the trunk of my car. (I bought the truck later, out of profits.) And best of all, there was no ceiling on my earn-

fifty

a true story
by John B. Haikey



ings. I could build a business as big as my ambition and energy dictated. I could put on as many men as I needed to cover any volume. I could make a profit on every man working for me. And I could build little by little, or as fast as I wished.

"So, I started. I took the wonderful training furnished by the company. When I was ready I followed the simple plan outlined in the training. During the first period I did all the service work myself. By doing it myself, I could make much more per hour than I had ever made on a salary. Later, I would hire men, train them, pay them well, and still make an hourly profit on their time that made my idea of retirement possible —I had joined the country club and now I could play golf whenever I wished.

"What is this wonderful business? It's Duraclean. And what is Duraclean? It's an improved, space-age process for cleaning upholstered furniture, rugs and tacked down carpets. It not only cleans but it enlivens and sparkles up the colors. It does not wear down the fiber or drive dirt into the base of the rug as machine scrubbing does. Instead it *lifts out* the dirt by means of an absorbent dry foam.

"Furniture dealers and department stores refer their customers to the Duraclean Specialist. Insurance men say Duraclean can save them money on fire claims. Hotels, motels, specialty shops and big stores make annual contracts for keeping their carpets and furniture fresh and clean. One Duraclean Specialist signed a contract for over $40,000 a year for just one hotel.

"Well, that's the business I was able to start with such a small investment. That's the business I built up over a period of eight years. And, that's the business I sold out at a substantial profit before I was fifty."

Would you like to taste the freedom and independence enjoyed by Mr. Haikey? You can. Let us send you the facts. Mail the coupon, and you'll receive all the details, absolutely without obligation. No salesman will ever call on you. When you receive our illustrated booklet, you'll learn how we show you STEP BY STEP how to get customers; and how to have your customers get you more customers from their recommendations.

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SPORTS REVIEW

Wrestling

ANNUAL

CONTENTS/WINTER 1978

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"War injuries left me severely handicapped, but I'm making a very good living in Locksmithing, thanks to your course. Word of mouth advertising has been enough to make my business a financial success from the start. Besides, I'm my own boss doing something I thoroughly enjoy."

says Glen Johnson, Larned, Kansas.

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION

Champion: BOB BACKLUND
1—IVAN KOLOFF
2—DUSTY RHODES
3—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
4—VICTOR RIVERA
5—DINO BRAVO
6—LUKE GRAHAM
7—IVAN PUTSKI
8—SPIROS ARION
9—STAN STASIAK
10—GORILLA MONSOON

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Champion: NICK BOCKWINKLE
1—VERNE GAGNE
2—RAY STEVENS
3—BILLY ROBINSON
4—CRUSHER
5—BOB ORTON JR.
6—JIM BRUNZELL
7—GREG GAGNE
8—LARRY HENNIG
9—MIGHTY IGOR
10—RUFUS R. JONES

MOST POPULAR

1—DUSTY RHODES
2—ANDRE THE GIANT
3—RICK STEAMBOAT
4—WAHOO McDANIEL
5—DINO BRAVO
6—MR. WRESTLING II
7—JACK BRISCO
8—BOB BACKLUND
9—IVAN PUTSKI
10—MIL MASCARAS

JACK BRISCO

VICTOR RIVERA

MIGHTY IGOR

ANDRE THE GIANT

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

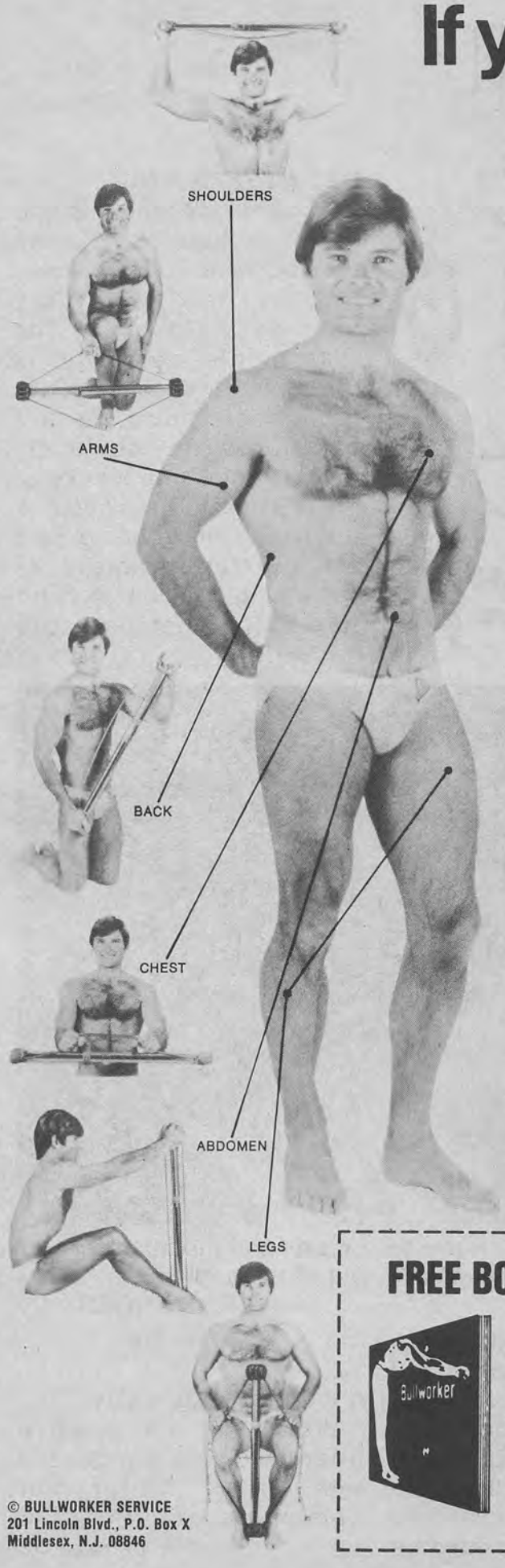
Champion: HARLEY RACE
1—DUSTY RHODES
2—RICK STEAMBOAT
3—RIC FLAIR
4—JACK BRISCO
5—KEN PATERA
6—THE SPOILER
7—DICK SLATER
8—DORY FUNK JR.
9—BRUISER
10—ANGELO MOSCA

TAG TEAMS

1—GREG VALENTINE & BARON VON RASCHKE
2—THE LUMBERJACKS
3—GREG GAGNE & JIM BRUNZELL
4—PAUL JONES & RICK STEAMBOAT
5—JACK &JERRY BRISCO
6—MR. SATO & MR. SAITO
7—MIKE GRAHAM & STEVE KEIRN
8—OLE ANDERSON & IVAN KOLOFF
9—PAT PATTERSON & RAY STEVENS
10—CHAVO & HECTOR GUERRERO

MOST HATED

1—RIC FLAIR
2—KEN PATERA
3—IVAN KOLOFF
4—THE SPOILER
5—GREG VALENTINE
6—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
7—BARON VON RASCHKE
8—SPIROS ARION
9—THE SHEIK
10—VICTOR RIVERA



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"Looking for a fitness program that's fast, easy and gets results right away?," asks fitness expert, Bob Breton. "Bullworker puts it all together. In just 5 minutes a day you can give your body a complete fitness workout: shoulders, back, arms, chest, abdomen and legs.

It's fast: each exercise takes only 7 seconds, once a day.

It's easy: any man between 15 and 65 in good general health can run through the whole program without getting tired.

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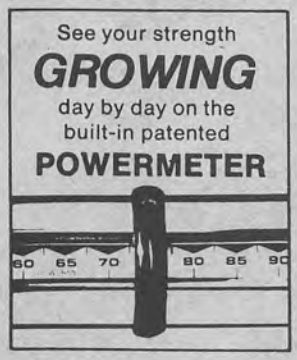

"I earn my living by keeping executives in top shape," says Bob. "My customers want results and they want them fast. I recommend Bullworker for one reason only: because it's the most advanced fitness trainer on the market and you better believe it."

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MAIL BAG

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Referee Sonny Meyers holds Rocky Johnson back as Bob Roop tries to re-enter the ring. Our story about referee Meyers drew much response, both pro and con. He is one of the sport's top officials.

HE'S THE AUTHORITY

Once again, fans show their complete ignorance of professional wrestling. Sonny Meyers, "The Referee The Fans Want Banned (Fall 1978) is not at fault here. Wrestlers who refuse to maturely accept decisions and fans who can't stand when their favorite wrestlers lose are the real culprits here.

What's the point of having a referee if no one listens to him? I think these idiot fans should stop and consider the chaos if we didn't have referees.

PHILLIP HALE
New Orleans, La.

GET MEYERS NOW

As someone who has had the misfortune of watching the supposed referee Sonny Meyers at work, I want to say the man is a disgrace. The reason his authority is questioned is because he has no consistency to his decisions. He obviously favors the rulebreakers. There's no two ways about it.

Whether he is being paid off by rulebreakers is something I can't say for sure. But he is not qualified to be a ref and should be thrown out of the sport.

WENDY ANDERSON
Orlando, Fla.

A WONDERFUL LADY

What an enjoyable interview you conducted with Maggie Tucker. Her comments and insights

(Continued on page 46)

Now—enjoy a life of unbelievable riches, lasting love and constant protection with the secrets in this startling WITCH BOOK—

THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT

Whatever it is you need or want, Witchcraft can get it for you quickly, easily, and automatically, say these experts. You'll discover how it can bring abundant and overflowing wealth, find or bring back a lover, ward off evil influences, and much more—step-by-step in plain English, with complete easy-to-follow instructions!

Yes . . . Witchcraft! Every time you hear the word it brings with it the feelings of deep occult secrets—secrets that you would like to know so that your life can be better; so that your enemies will stop bothering you; so that serenity, love, power and comfort can be yours!

THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT lays bare these secrets for the first time! Do you want a bank account bursting at the seams with money? A love life that would make a sultan envious? Supreme power to crush your enemies and reward your friends? What would it be worth to you to utter a simple incantation that would cause any pain to vanish? Or say another, and immediately recover some lost object?

What would it be worth to you to fly through time and space, on astral wings, as Witches do . . . go wherever you wish . . . do whatever you wish . . . without being detected . . . watch the antics of others behind closed doors . . . hear private conversations . . . make time run forward or backward . . . read tomorrow's newspaper in a "black mirror" . . . find out what really happened in history . . . make your face old or young at will!

BRINGS AUTOMATIC ASSURED SUCCESS!

Witchcraft can bring your heart's desire! You can use it to heal someone, influence the boss to give you that raise, or make someone stop bothering you! It's easy! The easiest thing in the world! You don't have to be wealthy or super-intelligent to get started! Thousands of ordinary people all over the world are using Witchcraft Power right now!

Witches have known for centuries that people are scared of them and their powers! And rightly so! NOW YOU CAN SHARE THE SAME POWER that gives you—literally—life and death control over other persons! Is someone bothering you? No problem at all, with Magic Witchcraft. For example, there is a spell called the "Cross Not My Path" ritual, for people who are having neighbor trouble. When you use it, you know you will never again have trouble with this neighbor!

With these amazing Witchcraft secrets, other people will look up to you—in awe—you'll automatically dazzle others with your power to make things happen at your will, you'll be Master of your destiny, and never have to apologize to anyone for anything!

Whatever you want or need, whatever frustration is bothering you, Witchcraft will help you. It is not evil—nor is it Black Magic. Like electricity, it is simply a power given by nature for the use of men, to make life easier.

You'll see how to get paid without working . . . how to get expensive clothes and furs FREE . . . how to get a first-class plane seat FREE . . . how to vacation at the finest hotels, motels, pools and pleasure palaces, start living like a millionaire as Witches do!

AMAZING TECHNIQUE HAS HELPED THOUSANDS!

Witchcraft secrets like these can make you rich faster than anything else in the world! Here's how others have used them to make miracles happen in their daily lives!

You'll see how Vern, a man who likes to give a lot of expensive parties, was always short of cash until he discovered the amazing WITCH'S MONEY JAR—now all he has to do is dip in, for it brings him an endless flow of cash! Evelyn, a waitress, was always lending money to friends, and was always broke. Finally, she placed her last dollar on the table, and worked the MONEY MAGNET SPELL over it. All at once, dozens of people who had borrowed money from her, rushed to pay her back!

Hank was perpetually broke. One night he got together with some friends, and they decided to cast the MONEY SPELL. The very next day, Hank received in the mail a check for some $250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim—but he accepted the money.) Another member of the group that used the spell, a 40-year-old secretary, received an automobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retiree, lives RENT FREE *and* receives $200 a week at the age of 78, with a secret you'll find in this Witch Book! You'll see how Claudine, a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs—FREE—and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow—with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings—received her dream house, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on page 38 of this book!

Using the same Witchcraft secrets, YOU can achieve peace of mind and freedom from money worries for the rest of your life!

IN THIS WITCH BOOK YOU'LL DISCOVER . . .

- How to Cast Spells that Really Work!
- Your Magic Window on the World!
- Personal Protection!
- Telepathy Made Easy!
- Influencing Others to Do Your Bidding!
- Controlling a Conversation!
- The Technique of Silent Persuasion!
- Using Witchcraft to Find Friends!
- How to Find the Lover You Want!
- How to Bring Your Perfect Mate to You!
- How to Dominate Others!
- Witchcraft Power for Money!
- Withcraft Power to Make You Irresistible to Others!
- Spells for Finding Lost Objects!
- How to Always Win with Luck Spells!
- More Power for Bigger Goals!
- Inhaling Cosmic Energy!
- Recharging Your Cosmic Batteries!
- Raising Your Vital Energy Level!
- How to Keep Evil Forces Away!

Now! Let This Amazing Witch Book Bring You INFINITE WEALTH, FINE POSSESSIONS, A COMFORTABLE NEW HOME, FINANCIAL SECURITY, LOVE, CONTROL OVER OTHERS, And More—Easily And Automatically!

For centuries, these Witchcraft secrets were hushed up, so that those in power could stay in power! Feudal lords kept their bondsmen as slaves. Factory owners kept their employees in dreaded sweatshops, because these masters knew they must not allow their workers to realize that they need not labor their lives away. Witchcraft was suppressed because it works! Not because of any "evil" in it. If it hadn't worked, no one would have worried about it. If you want to gain power, all you need is this amazing Witch Book!

By using these Witchcraft secrets, you too can change your life and gain health, wealth, someone to love—or anything else—surely, swiftly and automatically!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY JAR!**—You'll discover the secret of the Witch's Money Jar, a mysterious jar that fills with money—whenever you want or need it! All you need is some water, pennies, and an ordinary jar or bowl! You'll be amazed at the speed with which it fills with money—a seemingly endless supply of needed cash!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY MAGNET!**—You'll see how to magnetize a dollar bill so that it multiples! All you need to make your own Witch's Money Magnet is a dollar bill, a green candle, and the words on page 38. Once you do this, your dollar will double and keep doubling! You'll enjoy glittering luxuries, and start living like a millionaire, as Witches do!

• **THE WITCH'S BLACK MIRROR!**—Just as your TV set has been called your "window on the world," so the Black Mirror is your "window on the psychic world"—the world of the unknown. Making your own personal Black Mirror takes only a few moments and can open the way to unguessable visions. All you need is a bowl of water, some ink, and the chant on page 23. Suddenly you will see scenes from other places and times, or any scene you wish to see!

YOU CAN HEAL YOURSELF AS WITCHES DO!

Feeling sick today? Plagued by a lot of troublesome illnesses? Perhaps some relative is sick and constantly demanding your attention? Or perhaps it is even a pet that needs help? With the MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, you can cure anything, say authors Gavin and Yvonne Frost: "In our experience . . . we have not found a single incurable disease!"

• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

• **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping—due to a torn ligament—with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

AMAZING POWER CAN BE YOURS!

Whether you want infinite wealth, or just a comfortable new home, financial security, fine possessions, love, companionship, new health and vigor, power to control others, secret knowledge, protection from evil, or anything else, the magic power of Witchcraft can bring it to you quickly, easily and automatically! It's the easiest thing in the world!

• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror you'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!

• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A Witch uses ancient methods to make time stand still or to run it backward or forward! To make your face look young or old at will, all you need is some morning dew, and the instructions on page 27. You can fly through time and space, on astral wings, go anywhere, do anything, with the simple method on page 126. You can visit a friend, look in on an acquaintance and see what he is doing—even appear in someone's dreams, and convince that person to do whatever you wish!

• **SECRETS OF SILENT PERSUASION!**—There is a magic handshake that Witches often use, revealed on page 62. With this secret, you can implant a thought in someone's mind! You can use this Witchcraft power to dominate others! Control your boss! Make someone love you! Leave your enemies groveling in the dust! There is even a gazing technique Witches use on page 45, for identical thoughts. With this secret, you can read your friend's mind and share his or her identical thoughts!

SEND TODAY FOR YOUR NO-RISK COPY!

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MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

In the past, this award, the expression of the fan's love, has been won by such men as Mil Mascaras, Billy Robinson and Wahoo McDaniel. Here, the object is not to reward success but the manner in which success is pursued. A man who is a good sport, adheres to the rules and refuses to engage in rulebreaking should be considered. Someone who treats fans with respect, is polite to referees and gives unselfishly to outside causes is a candidate for this award.

LAST YEAR'S MOST POPULAR: ANDRE THE GIANT

MATCH OF THE YEAR

Billy Graham wins the WWWF belt from Bruno Sammartino. That was 1977's match of the year. Get the message? For a bout to quality for this award, it must have been the most important and thrilling event of the year. It doesn't necessarily have to be a championship match, but it had to have taken place in a major arena before 5,000 fans or more. When we talk about match of the year, we exclude massacres and alley brawls. We're talking about brilliance, power

(Continued on page 12)

VOTE FOR 1978'S BEST WRESTLERS

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

To qualify for this award, a wrestler must have started his career during the past year. Two criteria determine this winner. The first is the relative success the wrestler has had in the past year, weighing in such variables as quality of opponents and the manner in which he handled himself. Secondly, the wrestler's future must be determined. Remember, popularity is not a factor. To prove the point that a vote for rookie of the year may be a vote for a future champion, we point to Rick Steamboat, last year's winner and presently a top NWA contender.

LAST YEAR'S TOP ROOKIE: RICK STEAMBOAT

It is once again time for you, the fans, to cast your ballots to decide which wrestlers will be honored with the most coveted awards in all of wrestling. The choice is up to you. All of wrestling is waiting to hear what you say!

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1978's BEST WRESTLERS

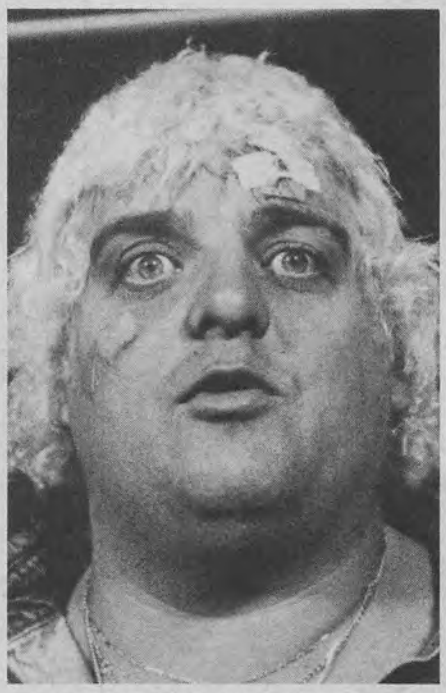
(Continued from Page 10)

LAST YEAR'S BEST MATCH: SAMMARTINO LOSES TITLE TO GRAHAM

and grace. Also, the match itself must be the event. It doesn't matter what events this match provoked. That one evening of exquisite wrestling must be enough.

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

It may be difficult for some fans to separate their personal affection for a wrestler from the clinical analysis of that grappler's skills. Still, this coveted award must be based on talent. There is a separate category for most popular wrestler of the year. There are many variables fans should consider when making their selection. This man must have displayed greatness in several areas: achievement, ability, contribution to the sport. Also, the quality of opponents must be figured into the decision. And, repugnant as it may be to people, a successful rulebreaker is eligible for this prestigious award.



LAST YEAR'S WRESTLER OF THE YEAR: DUSTY RHODES

MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER

This is a new category created to honor that wrestler who has displayed the most improvement during the last twelve months. This man can be either scientific wrestler or rulebreaker. Any success is to be included in the final decision, whether advancing up the contender ladder or gaining title shots.

INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

This category bestows acclaim upon that man who has shown courage and tenacity in overcoming some obstacle, whether physical injury or the angering frustrations of a career ensnared in professional impotency. This man

(Continued on page 48)

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- ☐ September 1972
- ☐ October 1972
- ☐ November 1972
- ☐ December 1972
- ☐ January 1973
- ☐ March 1973
- ☐ April 1973
- ☐ May 1973
- ☐ August 1973

SPORTS REVIEW

- ☐ July 1974
- ☐ Annual Spring 1977
- ☐ Annual Summer 1977

SPECIAL ISSUES

- ☐ 1965 Wrestling Album
- ☐ Annual 1969
- ☐ Annual 1972 #2
- ☐ Yearbook 1972 #2
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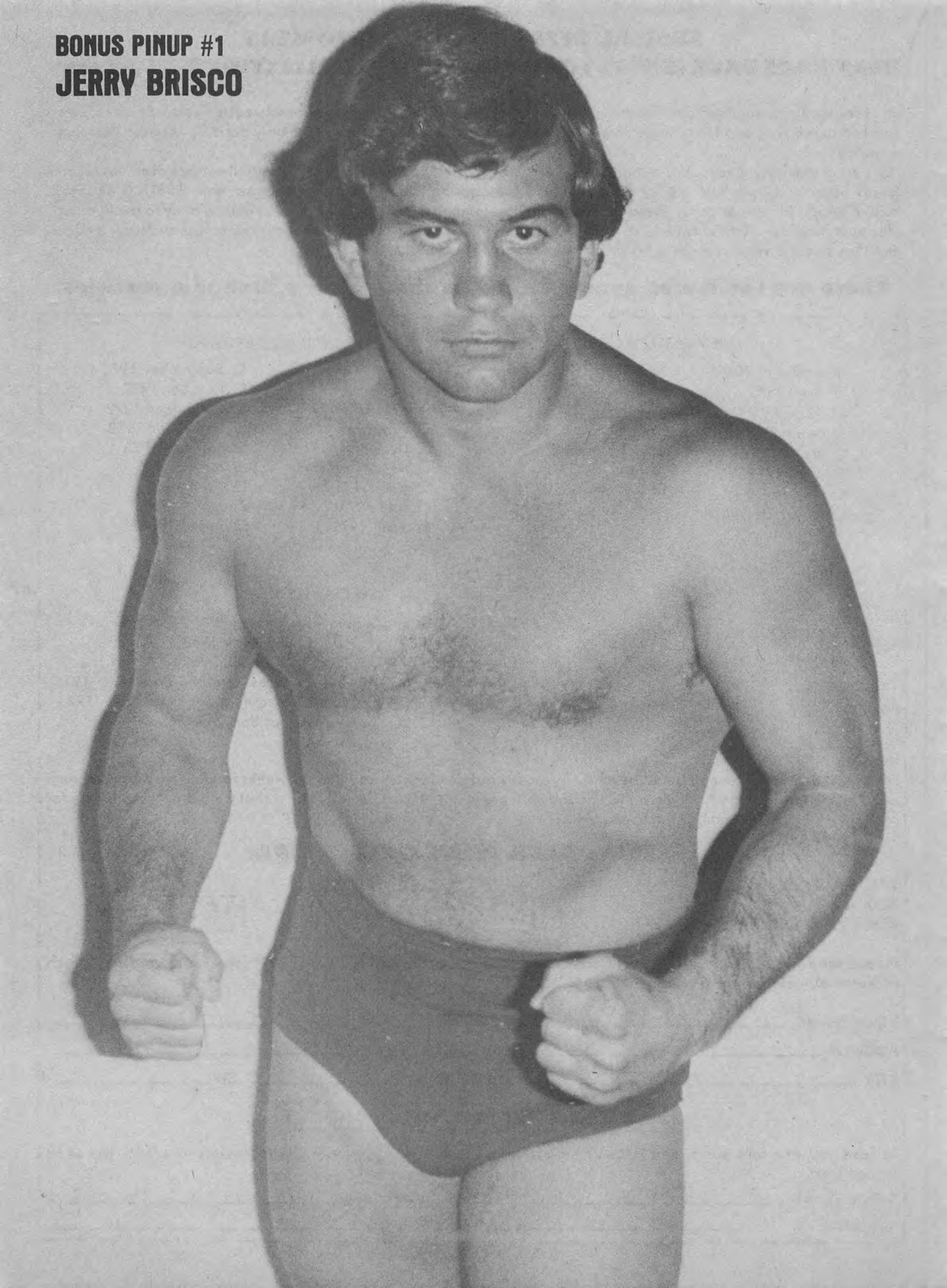

BONUS PINUP #2
RIC FLAIR

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JAN/75

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MAY/75

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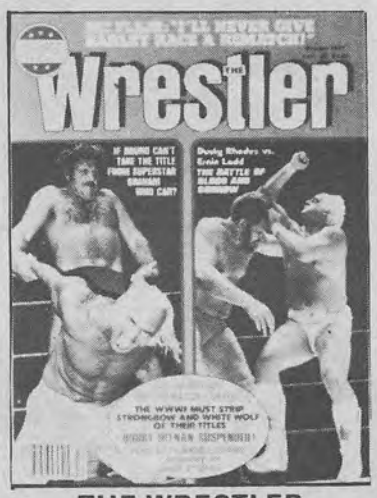

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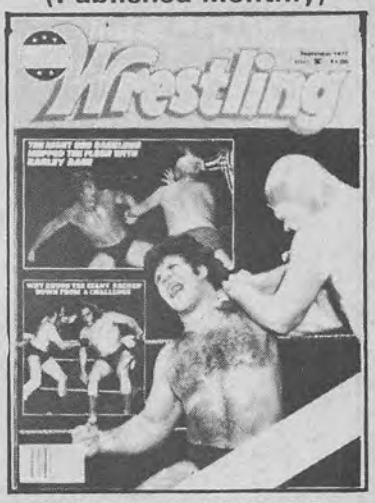

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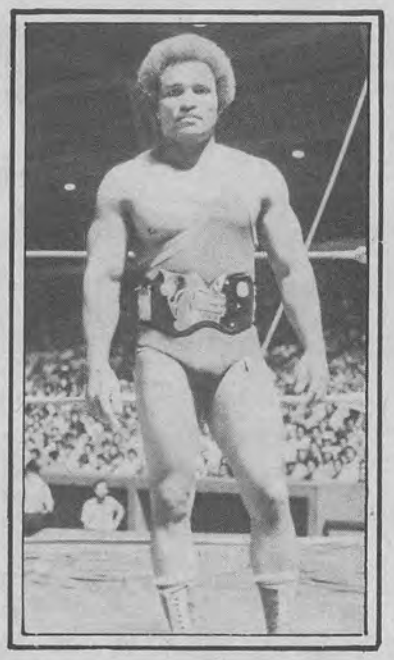
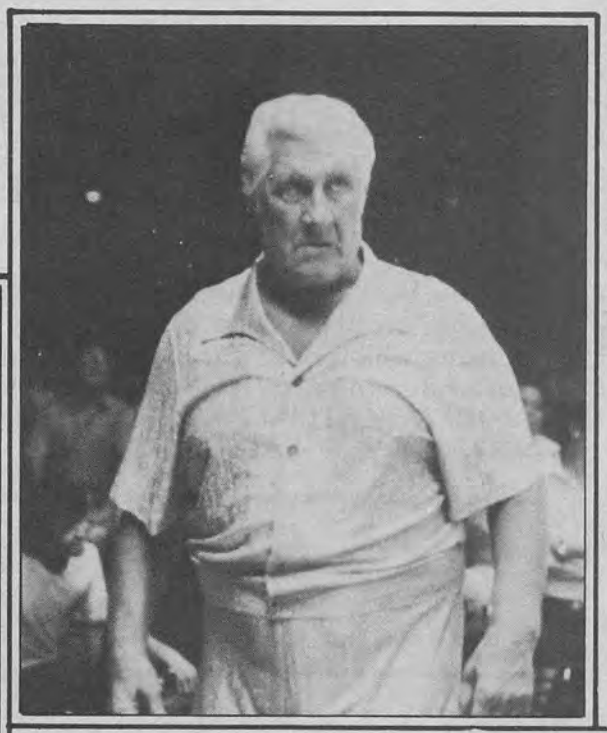
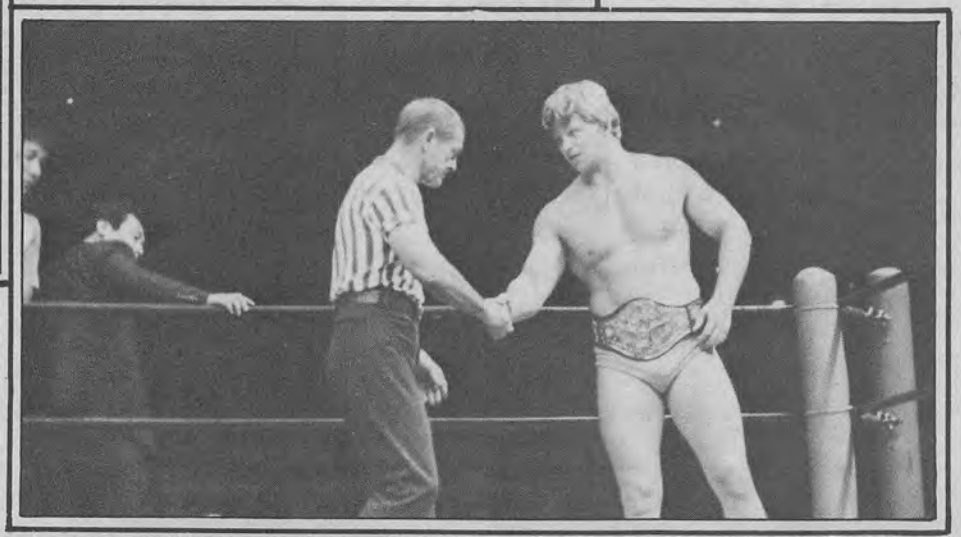
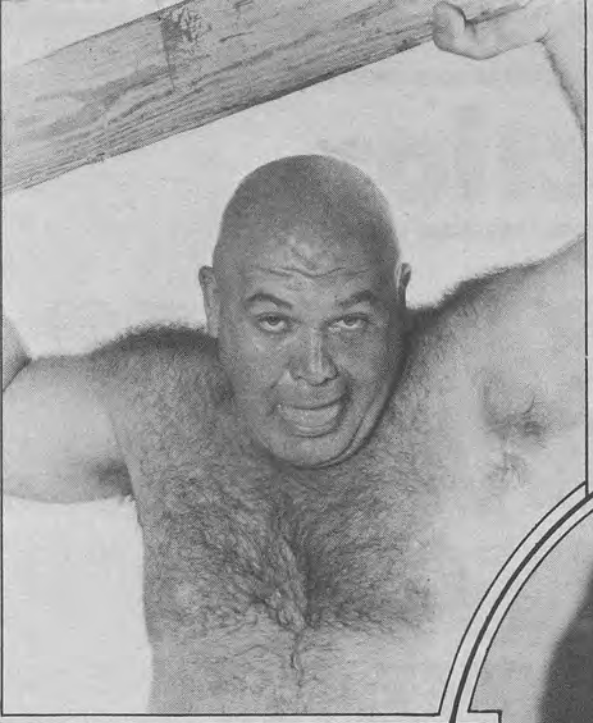




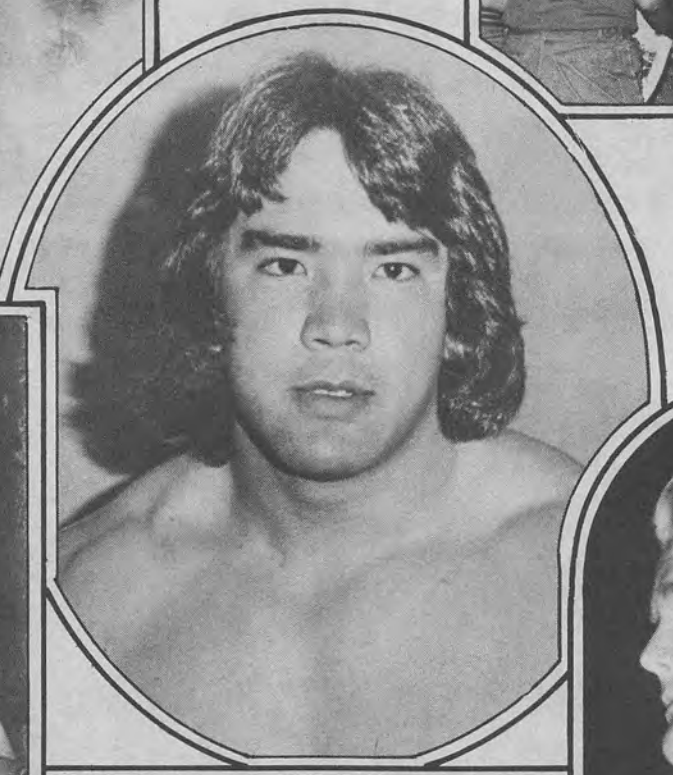
Above: Carlos Colon poses before a match in Puerto Rico. Colon is one of Puerto Rico's most popular stars. Left: "Fearless" Freddie Blassie has a mean snarl on his face as he walks through a crowd of Japanese fans during his tour of the island nation. Blassie's notorious deeds are known worldwide. He is hated universally.



Above: Dusty Rhodes hams it up with ace announcer Gordon Solie. Right: Referee "Red Shoes" Dugan greets WWWF champion Bob Backlund in a Japanese ring.



Left: George "The Animal" Steele tosses a leg of a press table at our photographer. Right: Fans surround the popular Mr. Wrestling II as he heads to the ring.



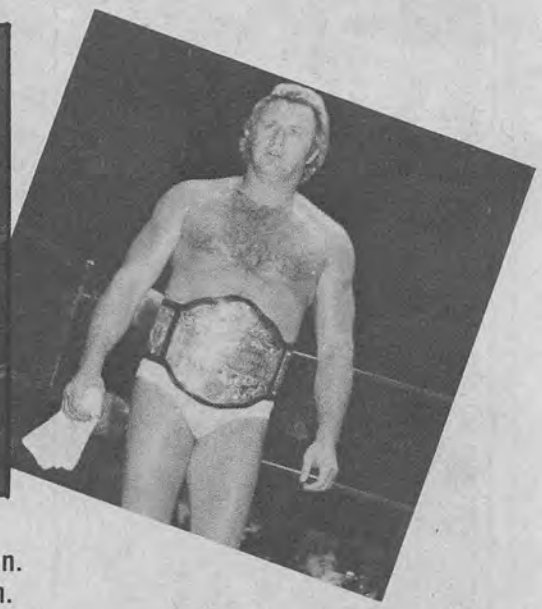
Left: Young Rick Steamboat is one of the most exciting grapplers to come along in years. Below: As much as Rick is loved, Greg Valentine is hated.

Above: This is how the Spoiler keeps tabs on all his opponents. He takes movies of them in action and then studies films befor combating them!

Above: Bruiser is still wrestling's "One man riot squad." He is still a top NWA contender.

Bonus Section

THE TOP CONTENDERS FOR THE NWA, AWA, & WWWF CHAMPIONSHIPS!



Left: Bob Backlund—WWWF champion.
Above: Harley Race—NWA champion.
Right: Nick Bockwinkle—AWA champion.

WWWF. NWA. AWA. Acronyms for the three major wrestling federations, paragons of excitement, timeless moments of brilliance which have satiated wrestling fans for years.

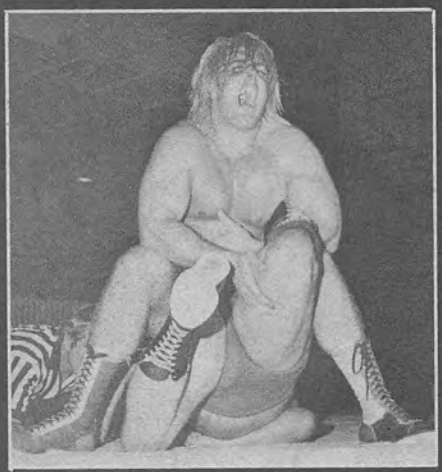
The list of top contenders for the titles reads like a litany of genius. Champion Bob Backlund, who deposed hated Superstar Graham for the World Wide Wrestling Federation belt last February, is constantly challenged by such men as Ivan Koloff, Graham, George Steele, Spiros Arion, and others of both skill and cruelty.

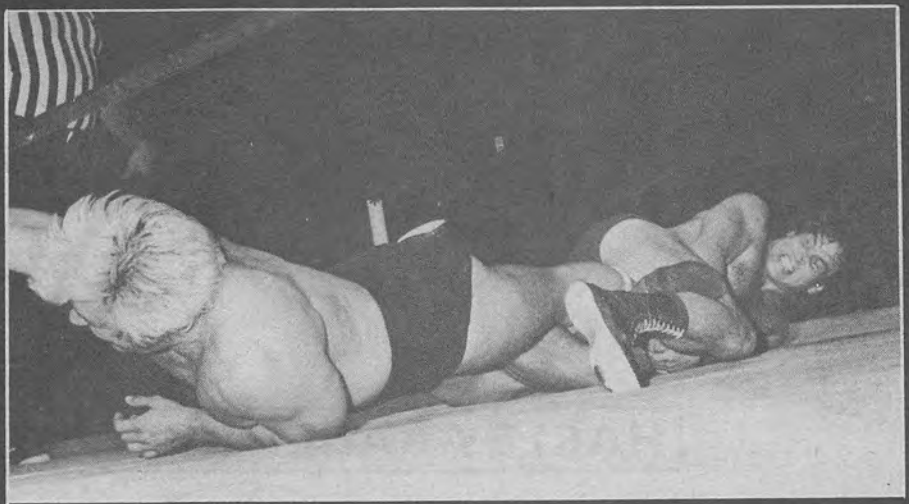
Then there is the NWA, National Wrestling Alliance. There the reign of Harley Race terrorizes opponents. Can Race turn back the challenge of men like Dusty Rhodes and Jack Brisco?

Or the AWA, reaching through many cool Midwestern states, also Minneapolis, and parts of Canada. Nick Bockwinkle, led by that cruelest of men, manager Bobby Heenan, vents his particular brand of evil upon the contenders, men like the legendary Verne Gagne, Billy Robinson and Crusher.

We have tried, as always, to furnish the fans with exhaustive understanding of the wrestlers.

TOP CONTENDERS NWA





SOME OF WRESTLING'S most intense competitors do their grappling in the National Wrestling Alliance. The top ten is constructed primarily of champions, with seven of the contenders presently holding belts. Surely a formidable group to challenge champion Harley Race.

(Continued on page 53)

WHEN HE FIRST won the NWA title, a smirk was often attendant with any comments about his speculated reign as champion.

Very few persons in the wrestling community thought Harley Race would stay on top for long. That miscalculation was one of the biggest in the sport's recent past.

Night after night, displaying a gut force and array of homemade moves, Harley Race has shown he is a brilliant champion.

It has not been easy for him, dispelling the doubts which seem to plague new champions. Though given to moments of public whining, he has, for the most part, demonstrated his skills in the ring.

No challenger has been turned away from Race's door. He has encouraged challenges and has personally sought to

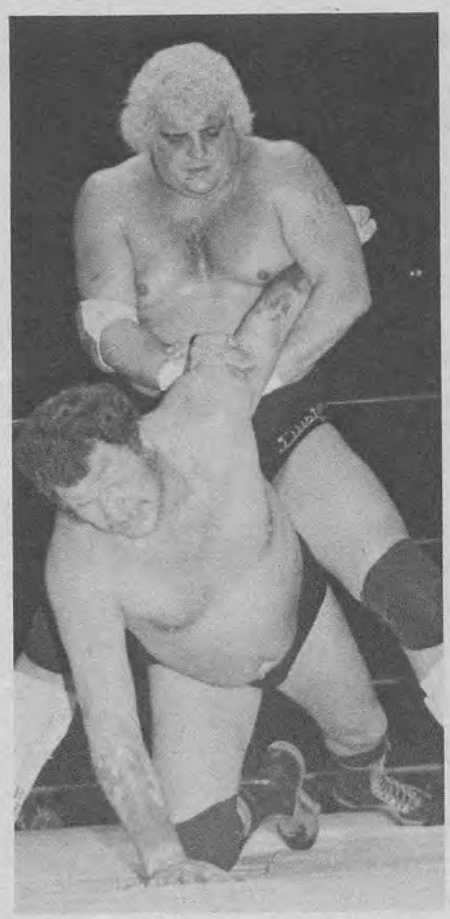
HARLEY RACE—NWA CHAMPION

circumvent financial problems with the sheer weight of his personality, simply to give a deserving contender a shot at the title.

He is not the nicest man around. He can exhibit a sickening disdain for opponent's welfare. But within this

framework of violence exists a regard for the foe. Race is not the sort to maim.

This peculiar confluence of animalistic rage and civilized contraints puzzle his foes. They still cannot figure Harley Race out. All they know is that he is a great champion.

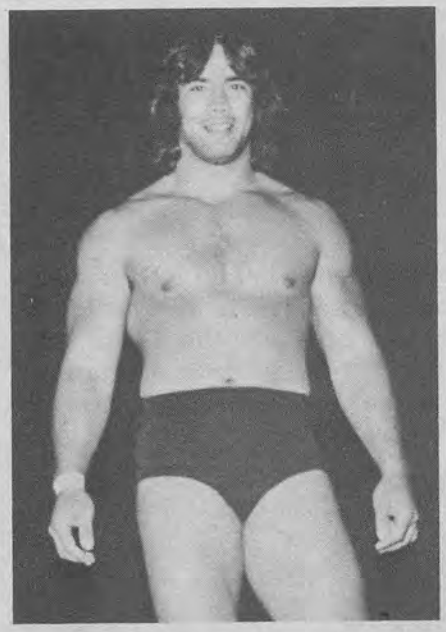


DUSTY RHODES

The incomparable "American Dream" . . . Currently holds the presitigious Southern Championship . . . Recently voted the Antonino Rocca Memorial Award for most popular wrestler never to win a world title belt . . . Owner of the amazing "Bionic Elbow," which he uses with devastating effectiveness . . . May be the most popular wrestler in the world . . . Fans flock to be near him and await that moment in the match when, confronted with certain defeat, his courage and fan support hurtles him out of the ashes of disaster and upon the illuminated banks of victory . . . Will wrestle skillfully but explosive temper can erupt with alacrity and toss match into gutter-tactic level.

RICK STEAMBOAT

Good-looking young man from Hawaii has captured the respect and love of millions of fans . . . A clean wrestler with an unswerving devotion to integrity, has suffered some brutal beatings at the hands of unprincipled rulebreakers . . . At one time considered retirement, but overwhelming fan response persuaded him to continue his career . . . With his combination of boyish good looks and innate skills, may be wrestling's next superstar . . . Big move is abdominal stretch . . . Has constructed magnificent combination of wrestling and karate.



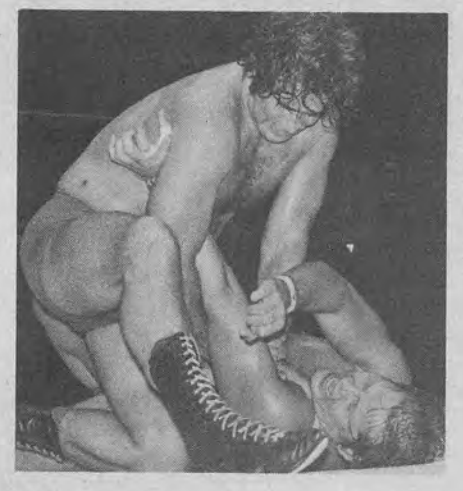
Has used his loathsome tactics to win the United States Championship . . . A thoroughly detestable man without any regard for human life . . . His sinister ways has earned him the contempt of all of wrestling, with the exception of a few similarly deranged colleagues . . . There is no disgusting maneuver he won't use in the

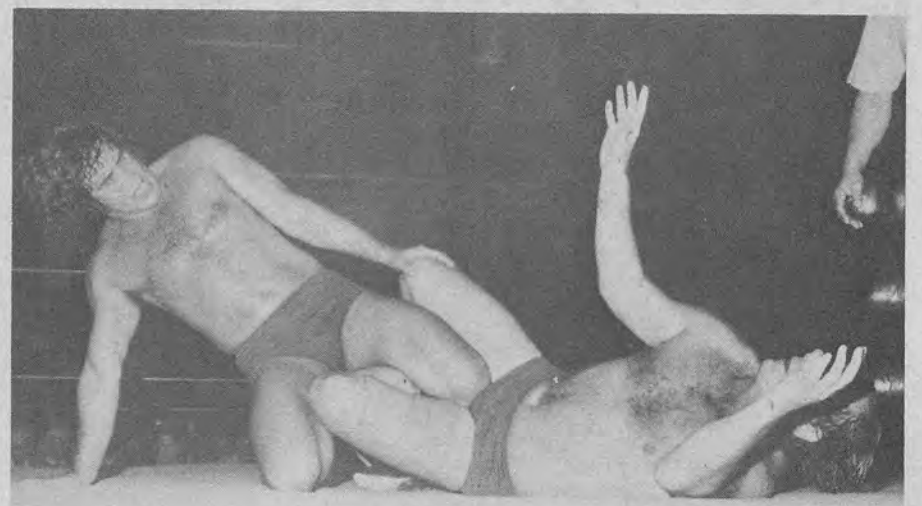
RIC FLAIR

ring . . . Opponents enter a match against him with the knowledge that the final result could be a crippling injury . . . Questions about his overall sanity have been raised, but arrogant manner would seem to discount them . . . Conveys pure evil . . . His legions of fans, ensnared by his villainous charm, are among wrestling's most devout followers.

JACK BRISCO

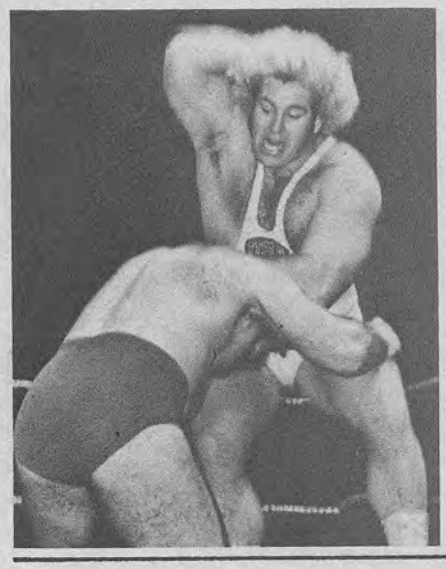
Twice has held the NWA title, only to see it slip away into the hands of Baba the Giant and Terry Funk . . . A man of unblinking principles, would not consider indulging in any illicit tactics . . . Just finished challenging all former champions because his mores impelled him to do so, not out of any external pressures . . . Frequently consulted by younger wrestlers, many of them rookies, looking for ways to maintain honesty and still achieve success, as he has done . . . Figure four leglock is his killer hold . . . Has held the Florida title many times.



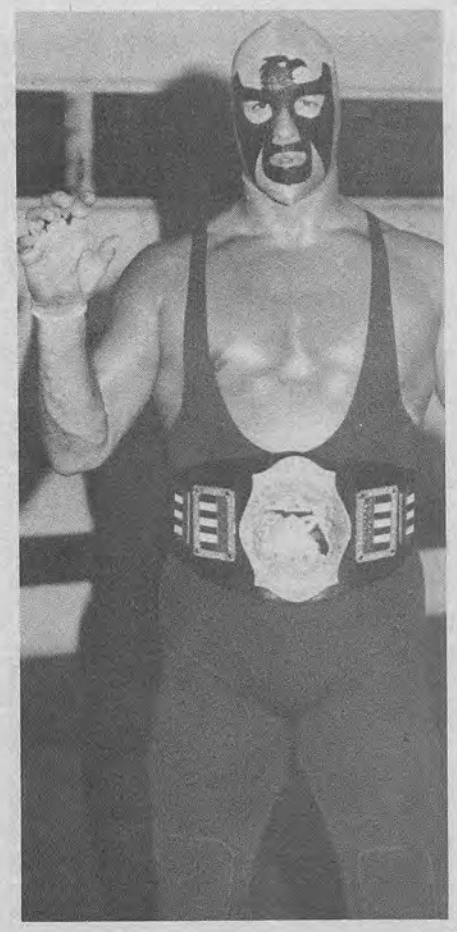


Reigning Mid-Atlantic Champion . . . Career has been embroiled in continual dispute over quality of skills . . . Finished third in World's Strongest Man Competition, but claimed finish was attributable to back injury . . . Has infrequently manifested a degree of scientific wrestling genius throughout his career . . . Critics contend he could be one of the premier scientific wrestlers in the sport . . . Some warped thread prevades his psyche, propelling him toward heinous conduct in the ring . . . An extraordinary physique and cunning intellect make him a formidable contender for the alliance crown.

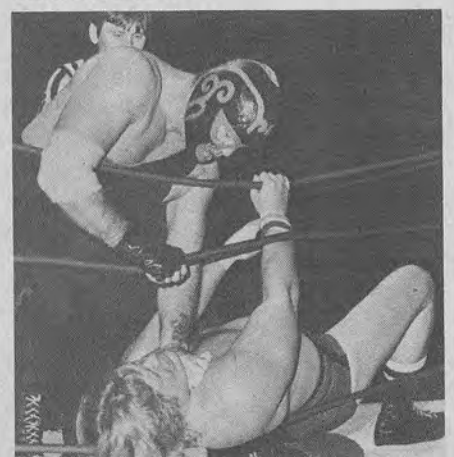
KEN PATERA

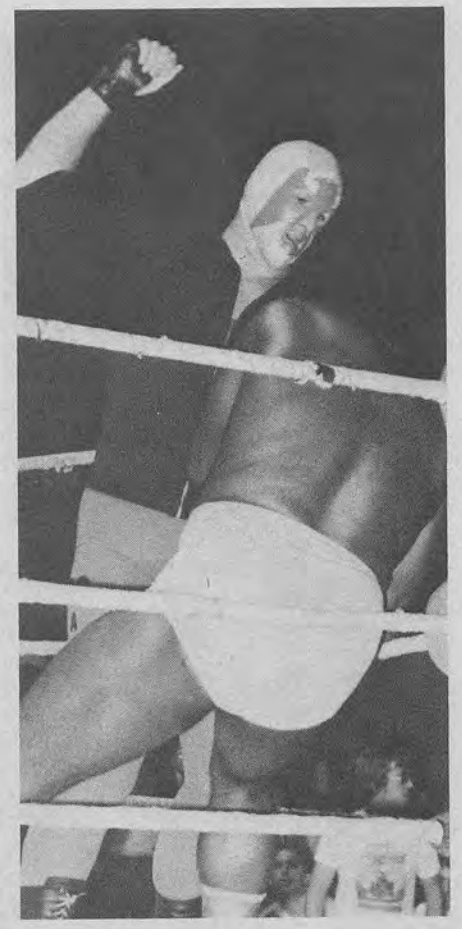


THE SPOILER



Current Florida Champion . . . Master of the clawhold . . . A man of mystery whose life is inpenetrable to public scrutiny . . . Rumored to have committed some violent crime years ago, necessitating the mask in the ring and the self-perpetuated mystique . . . A cruel man with no friends . . . Adheres to the precepts of the solitary life and shuns any contact with the human race.

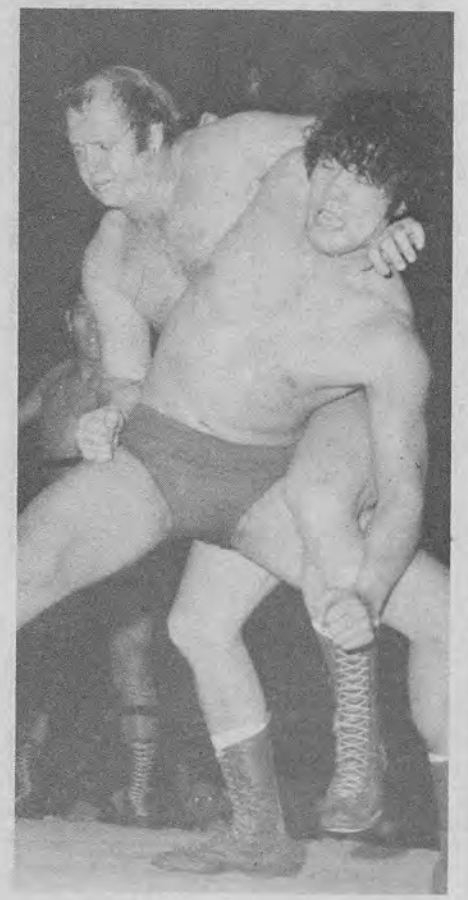




DICK SLATER

Ex-Southern, Georgia and Florida Champion . . . A man of considerable skills who has yet to tap his vast skills . . . Has vacillated between good and bad

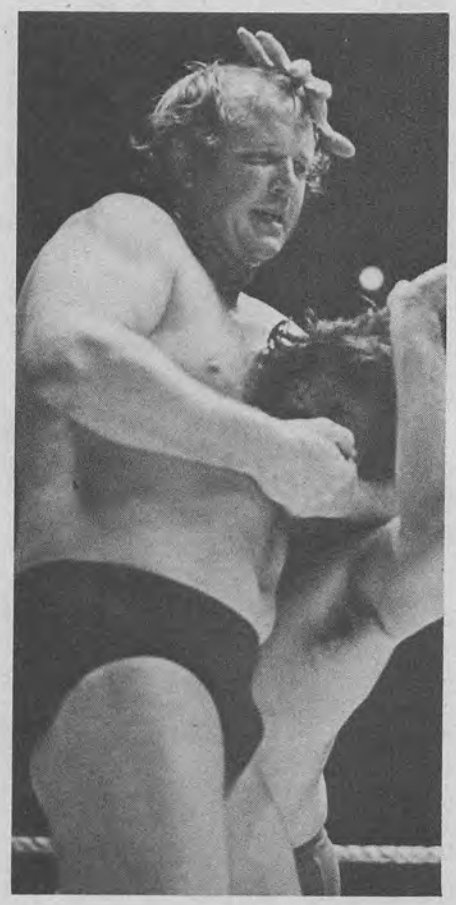
guy status . . . Displays an impressive stamina and repertoire of maneuvers . . . One of those wrestlers for whom superstar status is predicted, but who still is shy of attaining that level . . . Even when a rulebreaker, his disarming smile befriends all who come in contact with him . . . Once he truly understands how good he is, a major belt could be incidental to his possible greatness.

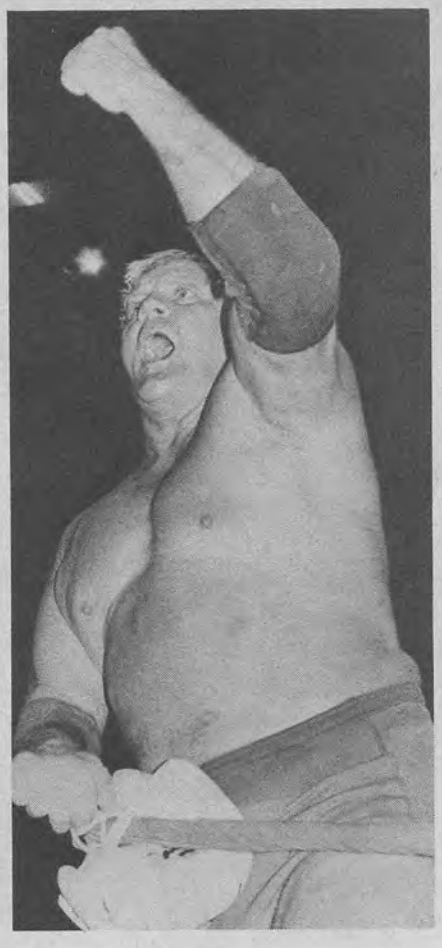


Former NWA champion . . . Son of the legendary Dory Funk, brother of Terry Funk . . . Unlike his brother, Dory is able to control his temper . . . Relies on an analytical style of wrestling . . . Spends countless hours in the gym refining his moves . . . Very ambitious and proud man

DORY FUNK JR.

determined to uphold his family legacy . . . Spinning toehold, his family's famous maneuver, is his favorite . . . Feels loyalty to friends and wrestling philosophy to be most important things in a career . . . Though temperate in nature, able to aggressively attack a foe.



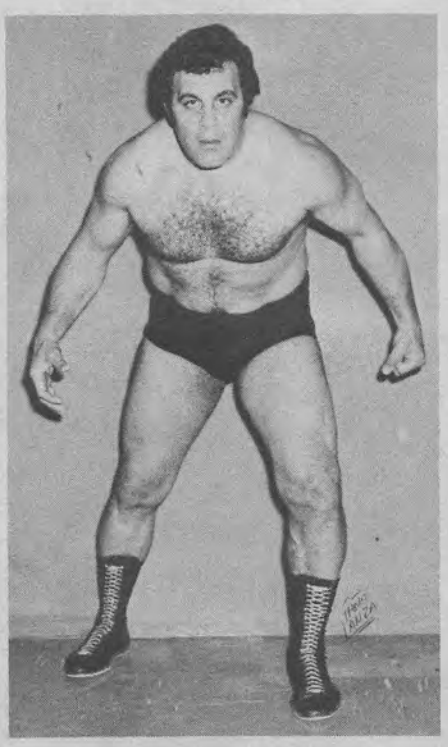


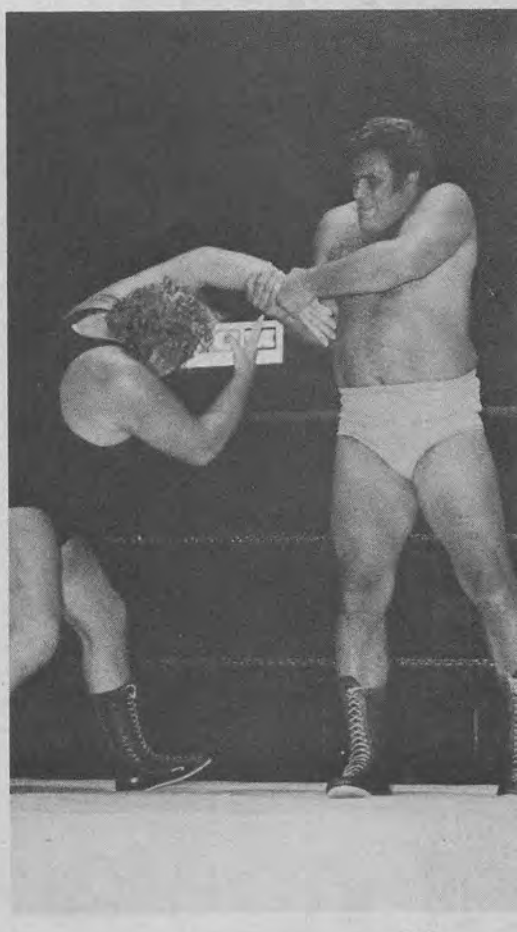
BRUISER

At this writing, Missouri State Champion . . . Earlier in his career, dubbed "One Man Riot Squad," and banned from numerous arenas in the nation . . . Developed into fan favorite when started wrestling other noted rulebreakers . . . The man called "the dirtiest wrestler alive" gained enough acceptance in certain circles to be paired with Bruno Sammartino . . . With Sammartino, they won the WWA tag team title . . . "Rowdy Richard" is one of the most physical wrestlers alive . . . A tough man who loves a good brawl and the sight of an opponent's blood.

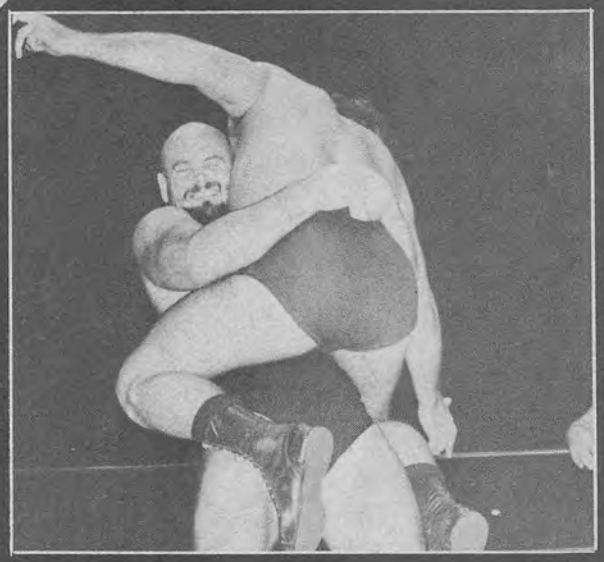
ANGELO MOSCA

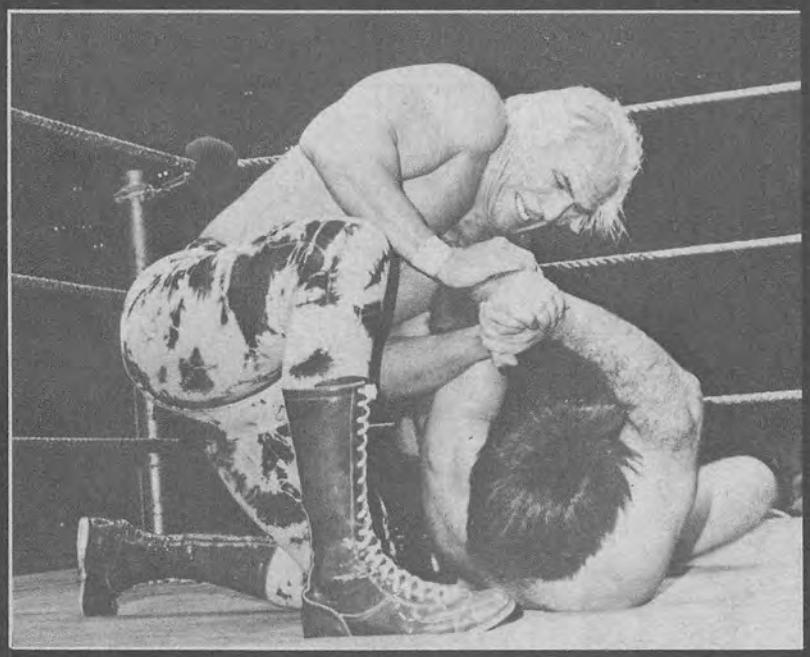
Georgia Heavyweight Champion . . . Nicknamed "King Kong" . . . Notorious rulebreaker who has savaged innumerable foes . . . Is finally gaining the national reputation his singular ring style deserves . . . Brutish grappler absent any qualms about his ring behavior . . . Despite his brutal style of wrestling, has an attractive quality to fans weary of the more maniacal rulebreakers . . . Loves to save his killer move, the flying elbowsmash, for the especially helpless opponents . . . Recently selected Wrestler of the Month . . . Swift rise up the ratings mark him as a future world champion.

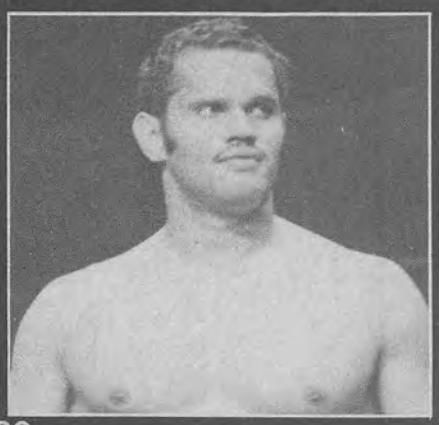




TOP CONTENDERS WWWF







CENTERED IN THE northeast portion of the nation, the World Wide Wrestling Federation has a disproportionate number of exciting wrestlers operating within its jurisdiction.

Whether a lunatic like Luke Graham or a manager such as Fred Blassie, the WWWF is a flamboyant federation.

Its current champion, Bob Backlund, ravaged the

(Continued on page 54)

RARELY HAS A champion been subjected to the abasing questions of skill which Bob Backlund has endured.

Understandably, his title victory over Superstar Graham might have been regarded as a fluke. Without prodding, motivated by his intrinsic ambitions, Backlund immediately set out to establish himself as a genuine champion.

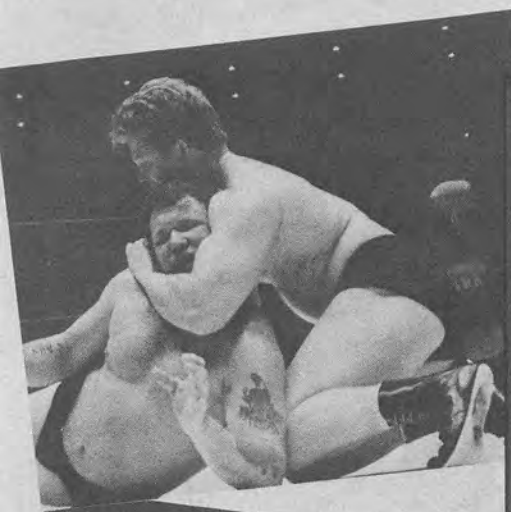
He welcomed every challenge, especially those from Superstar Graham. And the bloody steel cage match which Backlund insisted he had to take finally adhesed Backlund into the annals of wrestling stardom.

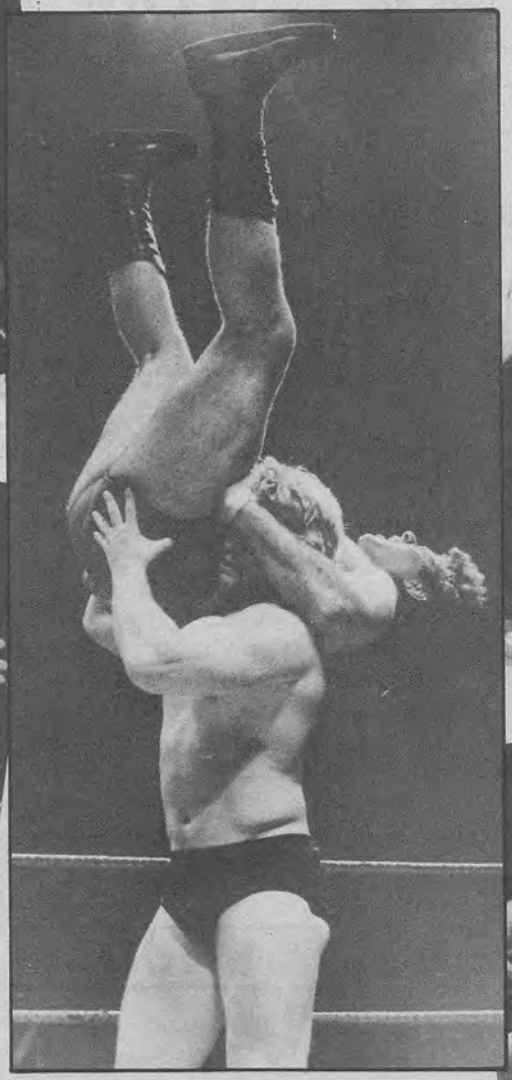
He appears to have everything. Size, strength, agility, intelligence, college wrestling experience. He is guided by wrestling's foremost manager, Arnold Skoaland, the man who captained Bruno Sammartino through the great years as WWWF champion.

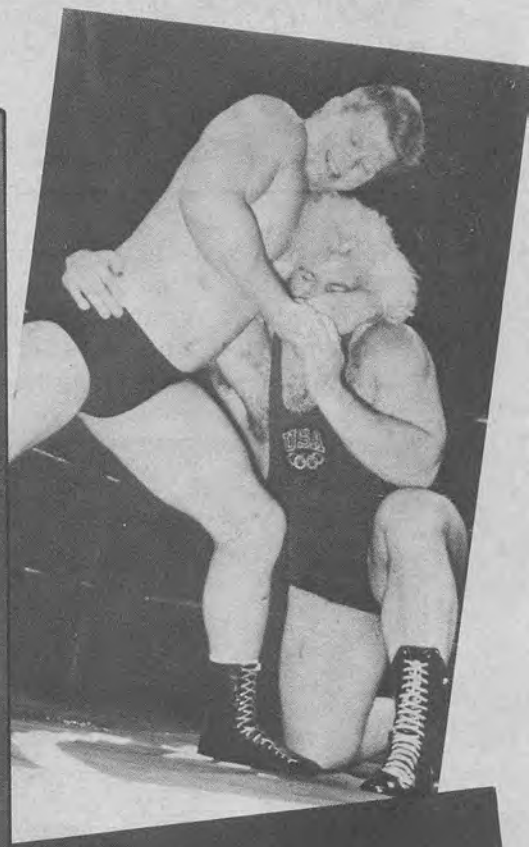
Perhaps this unnatural assortment of skills is what disturbs people. Perhaps they feel that all this talent shouldn't be lodged in *one* man. Perhaps the eventual demise predicted for Backlund is the manifestation of jealousy.

Accept it. Backlund is tough. And only a tough man can dethrone him.

BOB BACKLUND—WWWF CHAMPION

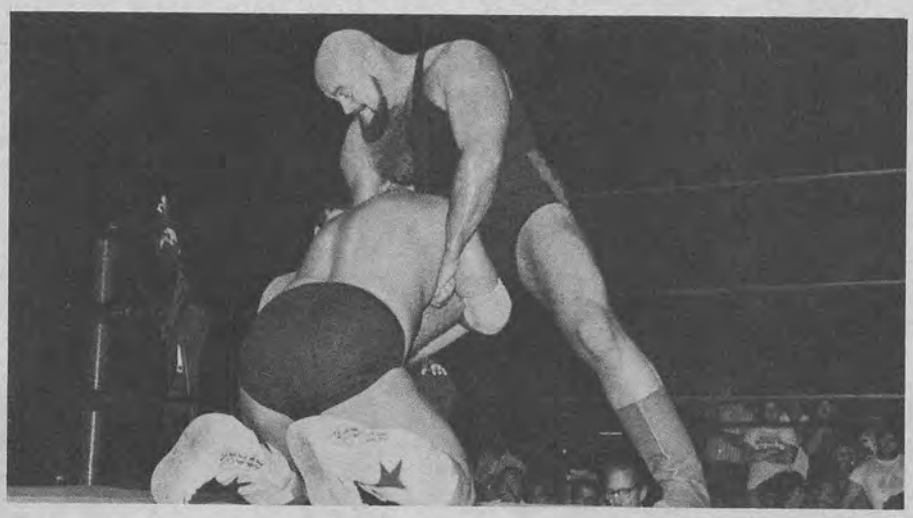


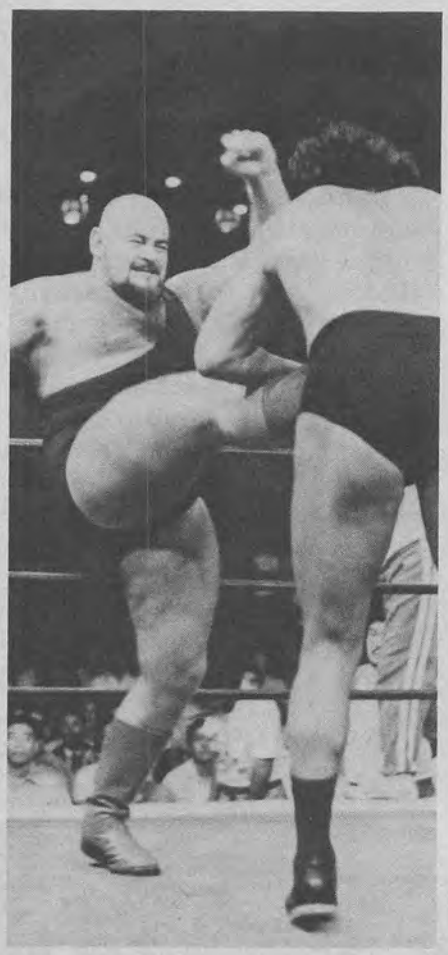




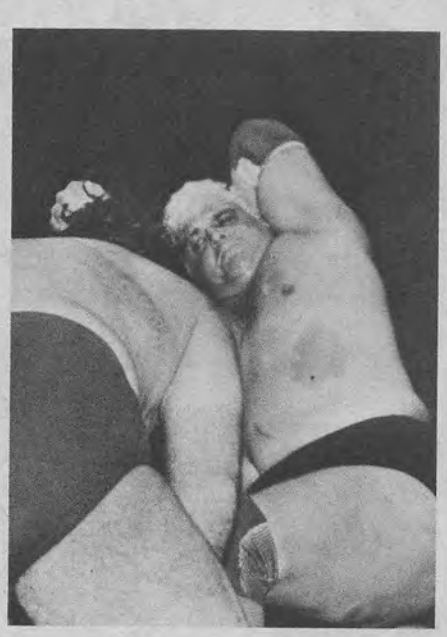
IVAN KOLOFF

The distasteful Russian Bear . . . Former WWWF champion who lost the crown to Pedro Morales . . . Isolating the nauseating components of his character is difficult, but certainly his villification of America is the most egregious . . . Infamous rulebreaker . . . Two favorite moves are Russian Bear Hug and Jump-Off-The-Top-Rope, which devastated Bruno Sammartino and enabled Koloff to win the WWWF belt . . . Has one of the least attractive peronalities of any wrestler around.





Holds the distinct honor of being highly rated in both WWWF and NWA ratings . . . One of the most exciting wrestlers in history . . . His matches

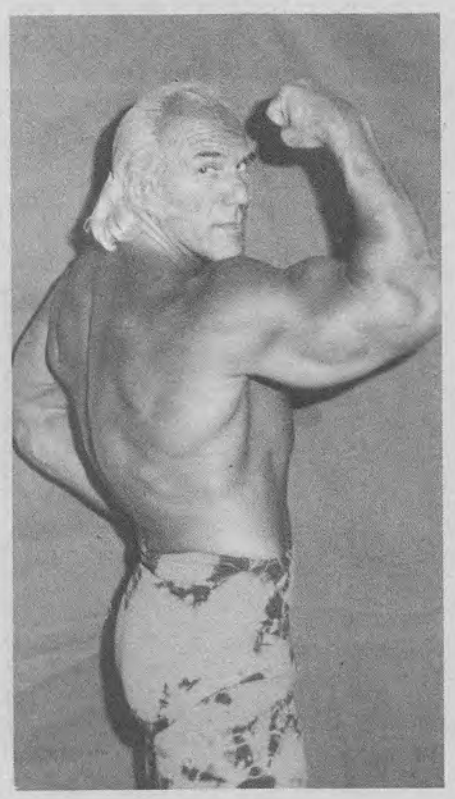


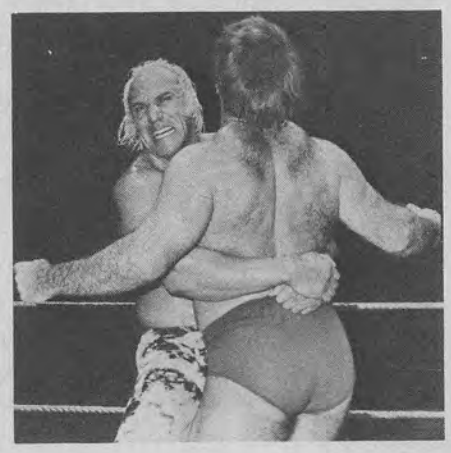
against former WWWF champion Superstar Graham are classics . . . Hopes to get a title match against Bob Backlund, but thus far promoters have refused to give him the shot . . . Although a favorite of the fans, can brawl and use vicious tactics as well as the rulebreakers . . . An international superstar who has yet to reach his full potential.

DUSTY RHODES

SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM

Lost WWWF title to Bob Backlund last February . . . One of the most notorious rule-breakers of this generation . . . Sickeningly arrogant man . . . Has absolutely no principles . . . Will use any loathsome trick in the ring to defeat a foe . . . Famed body-builder competitor . . . Won the WWWF title on a disputatious decision from Bruno Sammartino . . . Managed by the infamous Grand Wizard, a combination of treachery unparalled in wrestling . . . Venomous and vindictive, displays a cowardly streak when confronted by a genuine champion . . . Has had rematches against Backlund, unable to defeat the young champ . . . Some feel he is slipping, others believe his return to the top imminent.



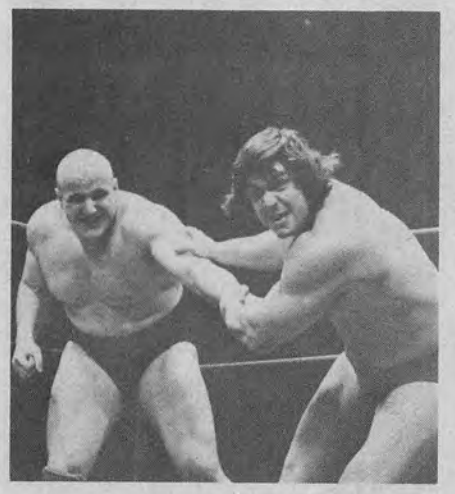


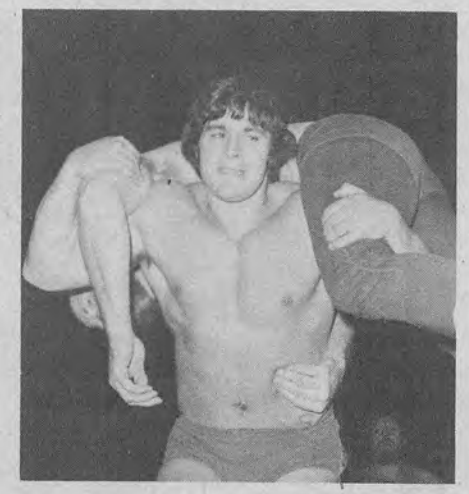
VICTOR RIVERA

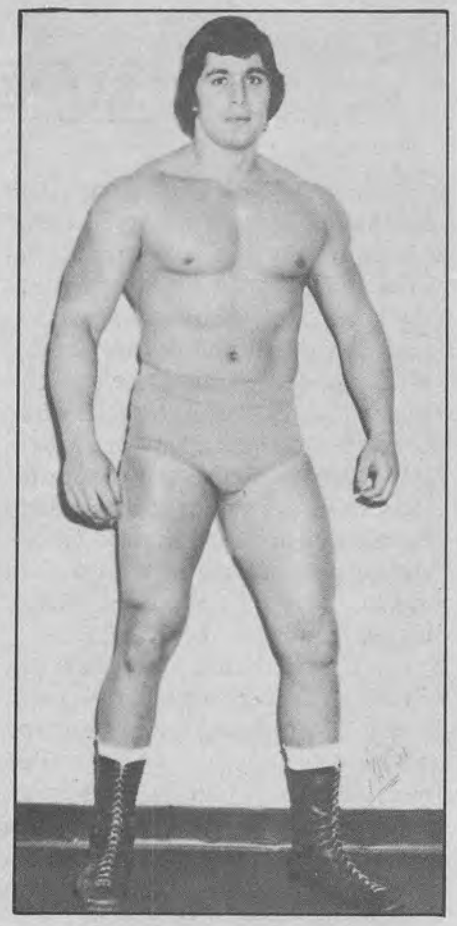
Was once wrestling's cleanest grappler . . . Under the poisonous influence of Fred Blassie, Rivera has been transformed into a vicious, amoral villain . . . Supposedly, this metamorphosis occurred after he was mutilated in a West Coast war. When released from an extensive hospitalization, was a cruel, hateful man . . . No one knows what transpired in the hospital . . . Favorite maneuver is the "Cannonball," a somersaulting move . . . Powerfully built with deceptive speed and agility . . . Future in federation is difficult to predict . . . Could be surprise of whole federation.

DINO BRAVO

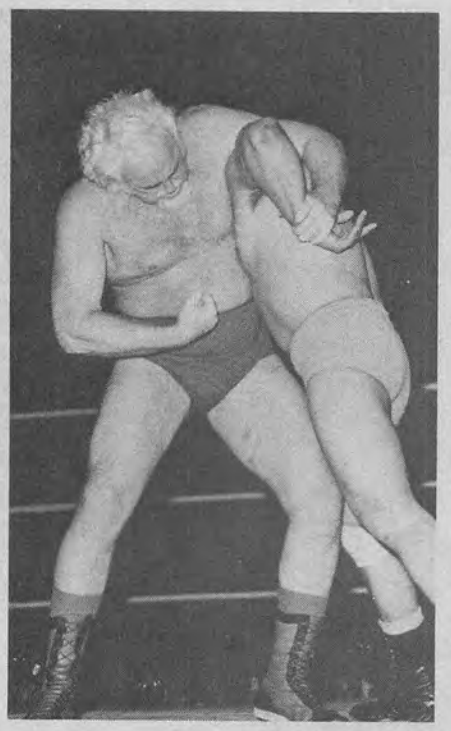
Former WWWF tag team champion with Dominic DeNucci until their loss to the Lumberjacks . . . Strong, handsome, ambitious . . . Cautious student of the game . . . Completely dedicated to sport . . . One of those types who will never get out of shape . . . Presently working on a consecutive match streak, winning matches in under fifteen minutes, which approaches Lou Thesz's extraordinary record of 142 straight . . . Unassuming, always gracious to fans and press . . . Of French-Canadian extraction . . . Favorite hold is the "Airplane Spin."

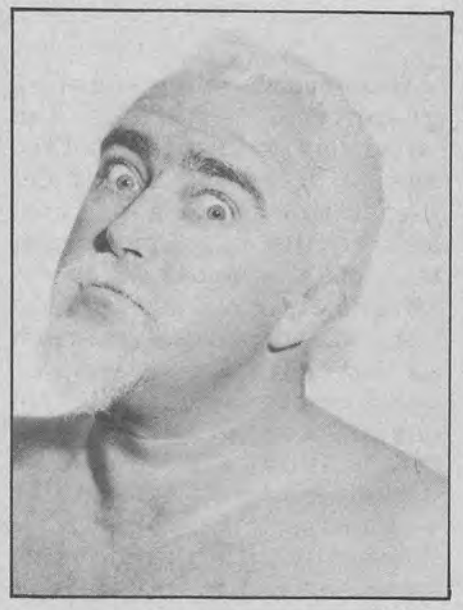






LUKE GRAHAM



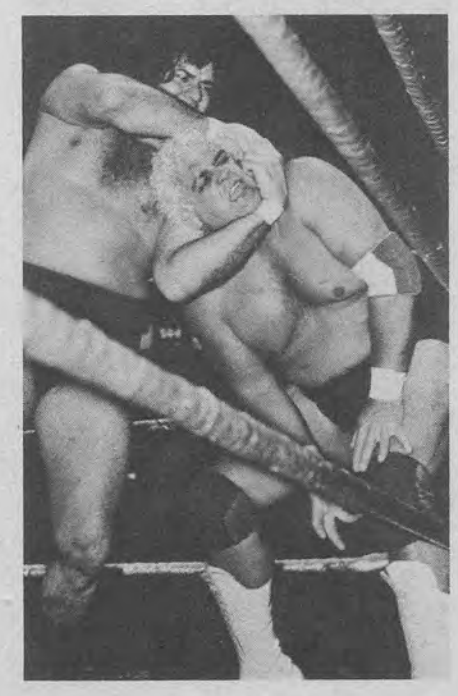


Nickname, "Crazy," reflective of deranged personality . . . Half-brother of Superstar Graham . . . Misfiring malfunctions of his moronic mentality pose a frightful mesh of madness and murder . . . Many have tired to commit him to an institution, fearing both for his life and his opponent's . . . Barely capable of speech, communicates through spasmodic gestures and driveling whispers . . . Doesn't use any real holds, content to bite and choke and scratch . . . Has teamed with Superstar to form a maniacal tag team.

IVAN PUTSKI

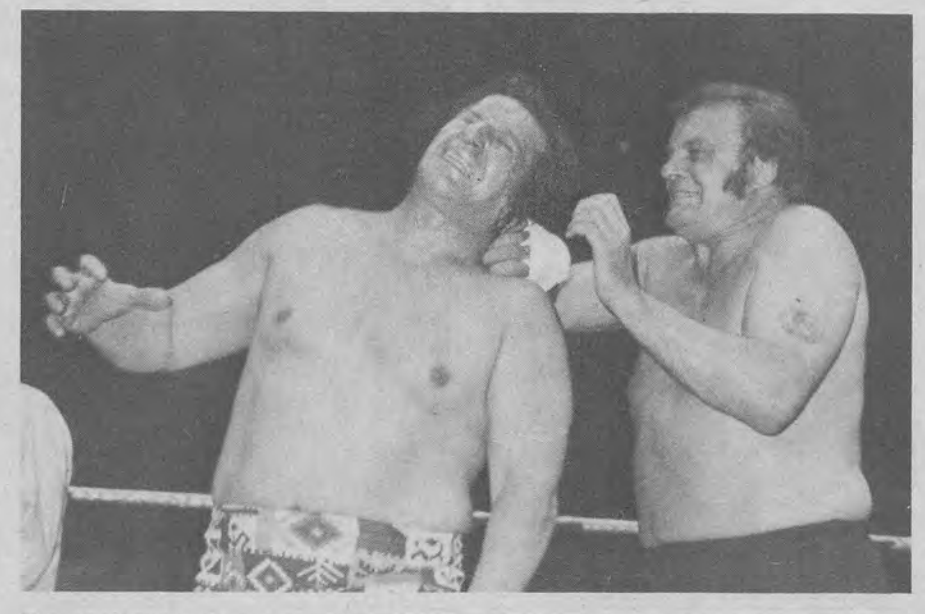
Beloved Polish Prince . . . Gentle, friendly spirit has ensnared the devoted affection of millions of fans . . . Works hard on ring maneuvers . . . Wrestled many times for title, belt always eludes him . . . Believes he beat Graham when Superstar was champion, considers himself uncrowned champion . . . He is the People's Champion . . . Claims the incorporeal force of Polish Power . . . His Polish Army surfeits arenas with their vociferous presence . . . Deadly maneuver is the "Polish Hammer," which foes justifiably fear . . . Believes it just a matter of time before he captures the crown and rewards loyal fans for their unending love.

Former good guy, turned evil . . . Managed by Fred Blassie, who had much to do with Arion's betrayal of scientific wrestling principles . . . Muscular physique and dark, brooding features have captivated the hearts of female fans . . . As distasteful as it is to many, he persists his affiliation with Blassie . . . Has perfected the "Greek Spine-Crippler," a fearsome maneuver . . . Will not rest until he has beaten Backlund and put another belt in rulebreaker warehouse of cruelty.



SPIROS ARION

Former WWWF champion, won the belt from Pedro Morales, lost it to Bruno Sammartino . . . Bad guy with the deadly heartpunch, a lethal maneuver which allegedly killed men in his seamy past . . . Wily veteran unafraid to utilize every tawdy trick his sinister mind has accumulated in this malevolent career . . . Veteran of this sort may be the toughest opponent for Backlund . . . Craves the WWWF belt . . . Disdainful of newer wrestlers, believes them weak and unfit to share ring with him . . . Impervious to blood, whether his or foe's, whether dripping down his forehead or inundating his shoes.

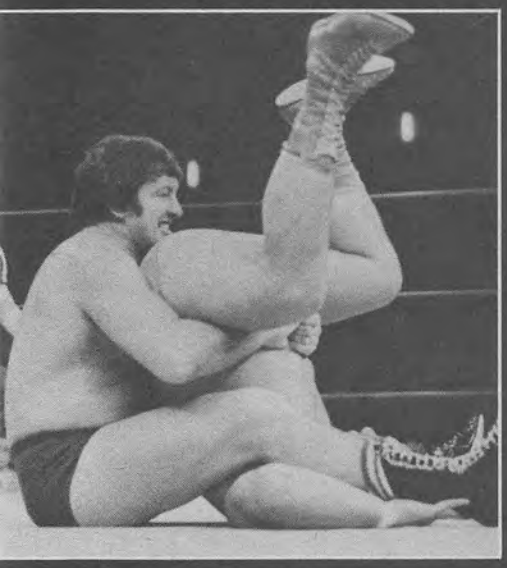


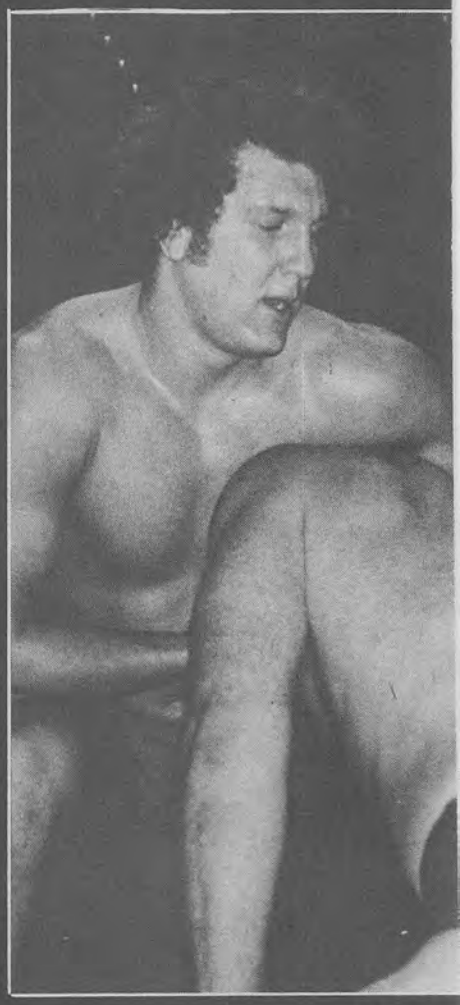
STAN STASIAK

GORILLA MONSOON

A knowledgeable veteran who is often a rookie's first real tough match in the federation . . . Years of wrestling experience make him perennially dangerous . . . Once a genuine bad person, saw the light and repented, adopting the goodness and decency of the scientific wrestling community . . . Powerfully built grappler, once opponent gets too close, Mosoon can easily subdue him . . . Favorite device to finish off foe is with a blinding succession of karate and judo chops . . . Fine gentleman who will spend hours signing autographs and answering questions.

TOP CONTENDERS AWA





FINESSE, ASIDE FROM a few wrestlers, is a rare commodity in the American Wrestling Association. Number three contender Billy Robinson may be the one wrestler in the top ten given to pure finesse, but he is alone.

Let's start with the champion, Nick Bockwinkle. Since winning the belt from Verne Gagne several years ago, Bockwinkle has spent much of his time convincing the public that he is more than an alley-fighter. He has not been entirely successful, in large part because of his propensity toward violence and illegality, instigated at every conceivable moment by his manager, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan.

Former champion Verne

(Continued on page 56)

REINFORCED BY DECEIT, propelled by ruthlessness, the destination a murky hole of ambition, AWA champion Nick Bockwinkle remains an enigma, a cyclone of hazy purpose

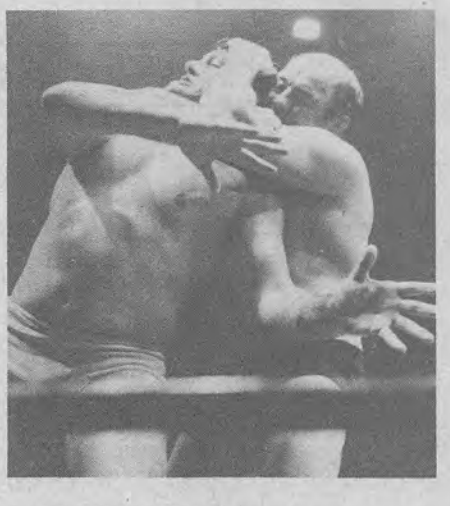
Since ripping the belt from Verne Gagne several years ago, a decision still wrapped in doubt, Bockwinkle has ascended upon the association with a cauldron shaky enough to cause a deep terror within his opponents.

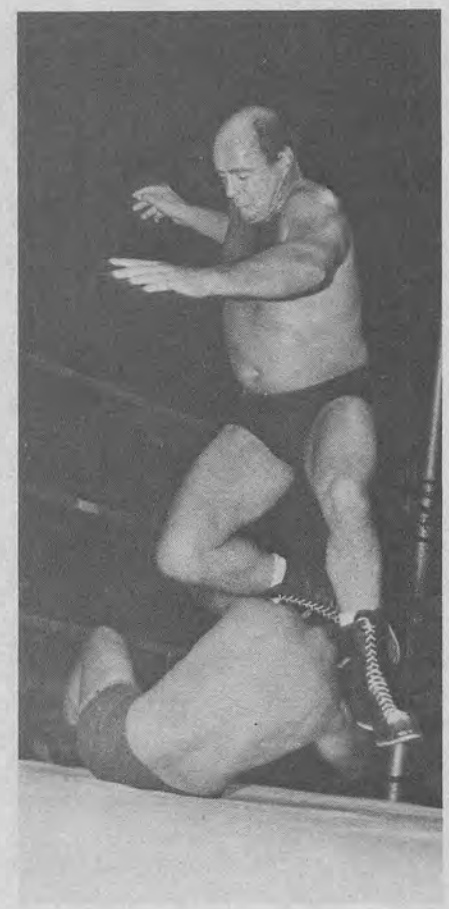
The path he has undertaken sways from side to side, has no clearly discernible purpose, has all the elements of emotional instability. Bobby Heenan, who characterizes himself as "The Brain," leads Bockwinkle through disputed decisions and dubious routes. And Bockwinkle never challenges his captain's orders.

Never. Despite a physical and mental exhaustion which ravages his formidable figure, Bockwinkle mindlessly follows Heenan.

Nick Bockwinkle has considerable talents, skills buried beneath the treacherous rulebreaker tactics he so facilely indulges in. This propensity toward illegality casts aspersions about Bockwinkle's true abilities. He remains unperturbed by these doubts. He is content to plod forward, drained by a murderous schedule, manipulated by an amoral manager.

NICK BOCKWINKLE—AWA CHAMPION





VERNE GAGNE

Top contender status belies the universal love and respect this brilliant veteran engenders . . . Has mastered scientific wrestling and raised it to an art-form . . . Lost title several years ago to Bockwinkle in heatedly disputed decision, though won't whine about it, determined to regain belt in the ring . . . Considered a paragon of wisdom and acts as venerable advisor for young wrestlers . . . Son Greg is viewed as a rising superstar . . . Has contemptuous disdain for champion Bockwinkle.

RAY STEVENS

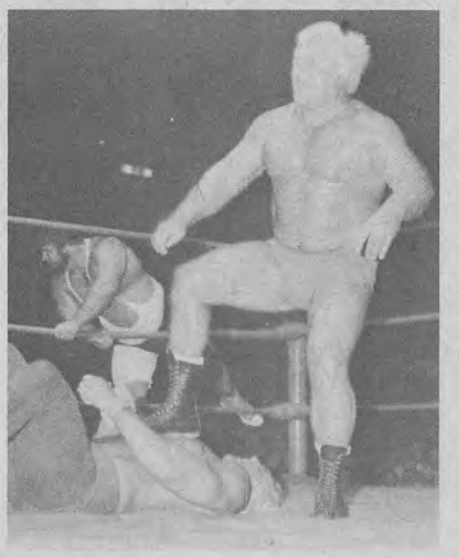
Another man who has felt the lacerating treachery of Bockwinkle . . . Former tag team partner of Bockwinkle, rift developed, instigated by Bobby Heenan . . . Has sought out matches against Bockwinkle, bouts which are wars of vengeance . . . Now teams with old friend Pat Patterson . . . Still vacillates between rule-breaking and scientific wrestling . . . Style evidences a rough grace and violent temper . . . Veteran with a repertoire of crushing maneuvers . . . Blind devotion to friends can be metamorphosized into ruthless vindictiveness if betrayed.

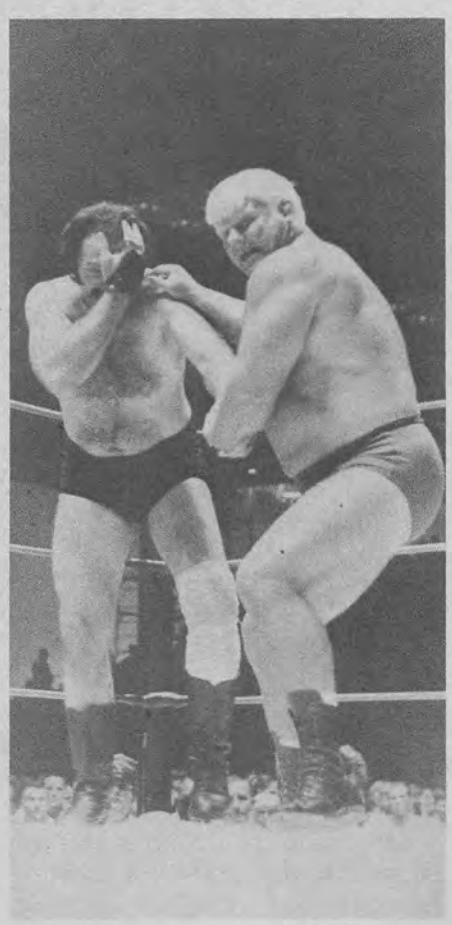
BILLY ROBINSON

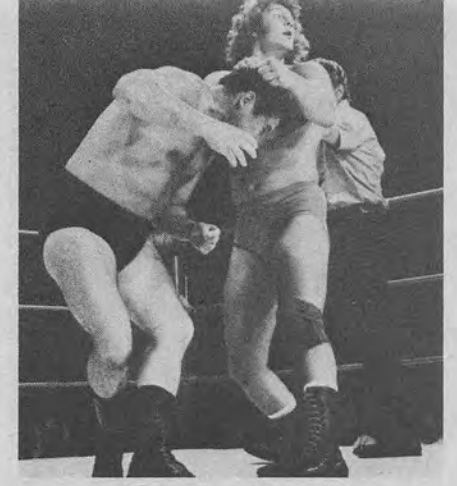
Gracious gentleman from Great Britain . . . Exhibits a class in the ring which infuriates taunting opponents . . . After a world tour he encountered problems in re-entering the association . . . Conspirators allegedly contributed to keep him from creeping up the title ladder . . . Dignified, temperate personality has earned adoration of millions . . . Wrestled ex-champion Verne Gagne many times in the past. The title always eluded him by a time-limit or questionable decision . . . Scurrilous reports of prejudice against "foreign" wrestlers discounted by Robinson.

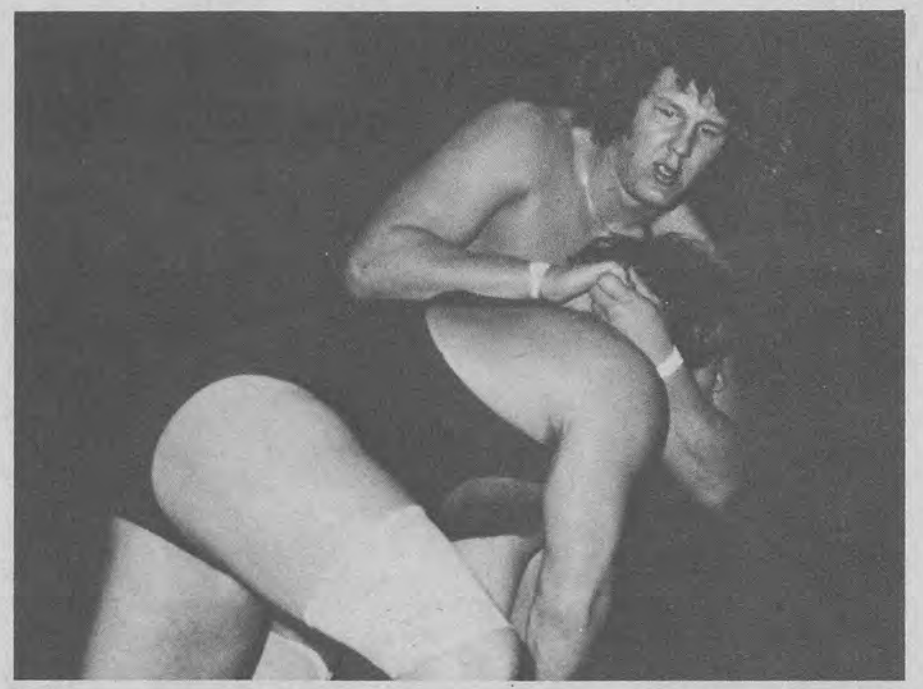
CRUSHER

Coarse crusader of the truck driver and beer-belly set . . . Inelegant manner of wrestling reflects a rough honesty his ardent fans appreciate . . . Top contender for many years . . . Has wrestled all of the association's premier grapplers . . . Specializes in close, crunching holds designed to inflict maximum pain and elicit excruciated wails . . . Disdainful of the "pretty boy" sect of professional wrestling . . As home in a smoky, noisy bar as in a ring or crowded dressing room . . . His fans are among sport's loudest and loyalest . . . Charter member of "Hate Heenan" Club.



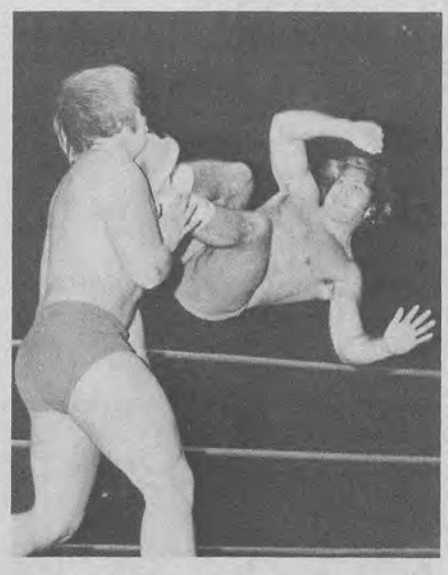


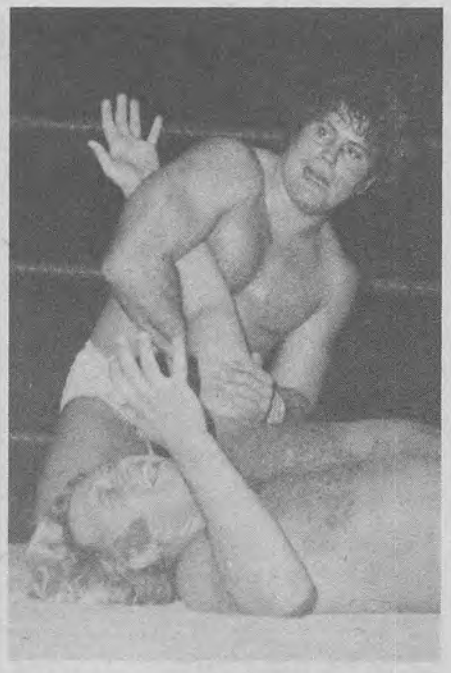




Latest addition to Heenan's stable of brain-washed malcontents . . . Formed a tag team with Nick Bockwinkle on the pretext of pursuing AWA title held by Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell . . . Affiliation with Heenan may prove detrimental to promising career . . . Partnership with Bockwinkle diminishes likelihood of title shot against AWA titlist . . . Has superior skills with tendencies toward illegal maneuvers conceals . . . Strong, tough with surprising agility . . . Aficionado of cowboy life-style.

BOB ORTON JR.



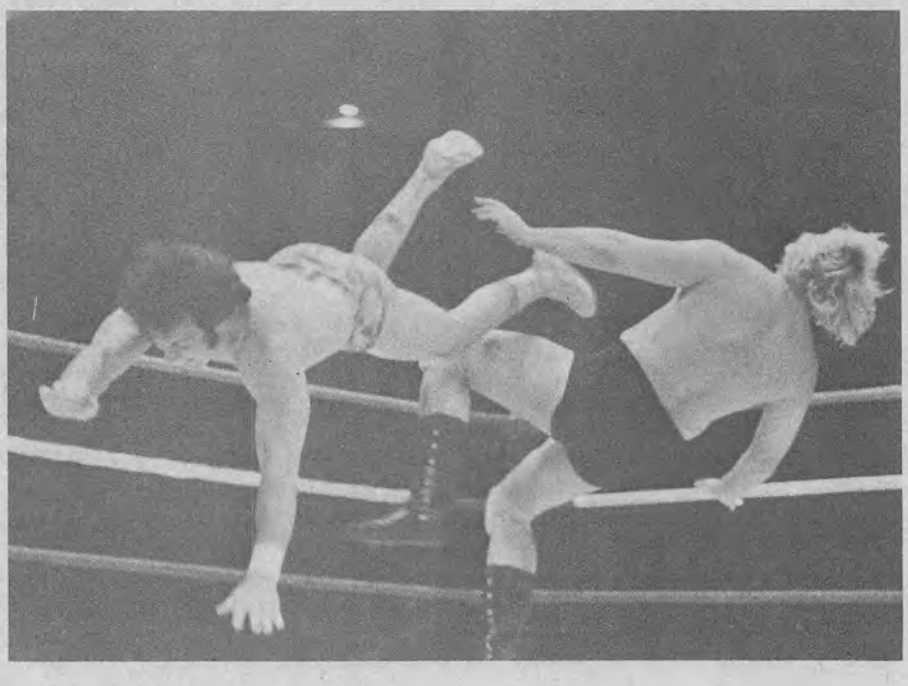


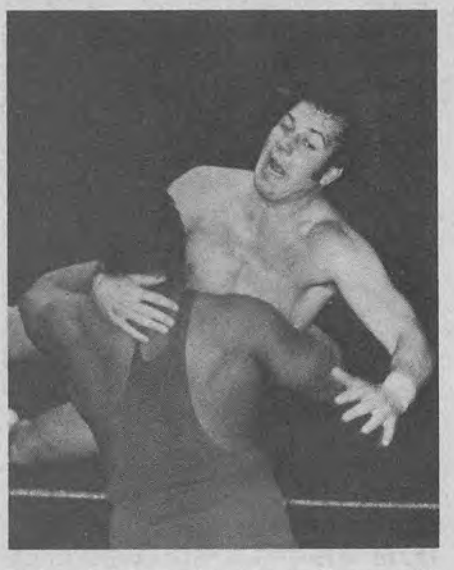
JIM BRUNZELL

Brilliant young wrestler who, with Greg Gagne, holds association tag team championship . . . Has the requisite physical skills and analytical mind to hold the crown for many years . . . As yet, has not expressed burning ambition to topple Bockwinkle, but has not disclaimed ambition for the AWA individual title . . . Master of the Boston Crab, a unique and devastating hold which pulls at the legs and unravels the spine . . . Always receptive to fans, willingly spends hours after a match signing autographs.

Decent, hard working individual who does not abuse his native skills with cocky neglect, as many similarly talented colleagues do . . . Having famous father has not produced arrogant demeanor . . .

GREG GAGNE

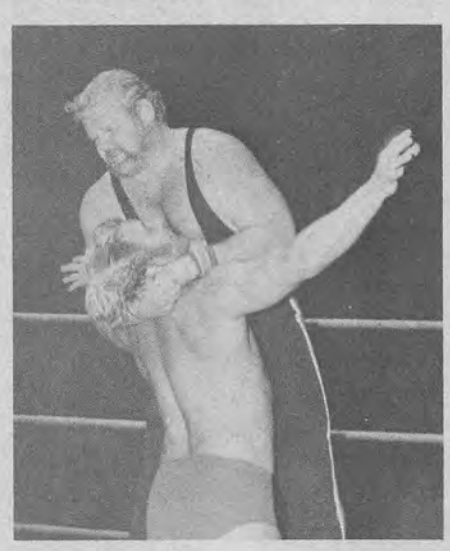




Friendship with Jim Brunzell transcends ring to create warm, brotherly partnership . . . Skills are impeccably precise, leading some observers to predict he will surpass Verne in eventual success . . . Has capacity to wrestle individually and as partner with equal facility . . . Mature, serves as mentor for many peers seeking advice.

LARRY HENNIG

Old nemesis of good guys like Gagne and Robinson until swivled away from rulebreaker tactics and onto scientific wrestling road . . . Long-time veteran of association, has working knowledge of all arenas and fan proclivities across the AWA . . . When travels outside association is given to rulebreaker maneuvers, a divergence of style he refuses to explain . . . Big hold is the "Ax," a frightfully painful maneuver which certain members of the wrestling community believe too violent for use . . . A knowledgeable veteran who could give Bockwinkle a tough match . . . Effective combination of roughnes and experience make him a lethal contender for the crown.

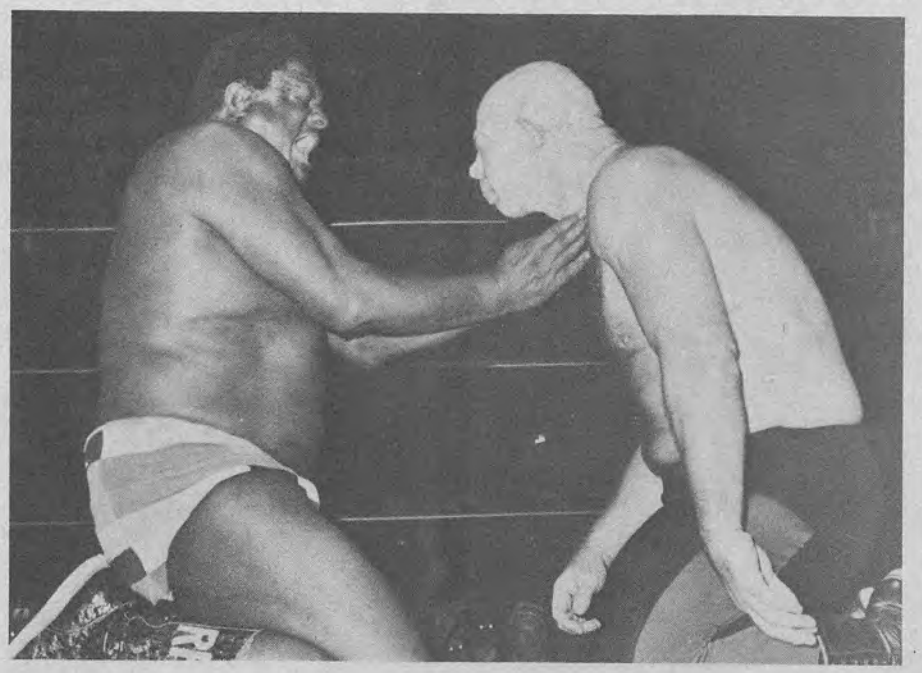


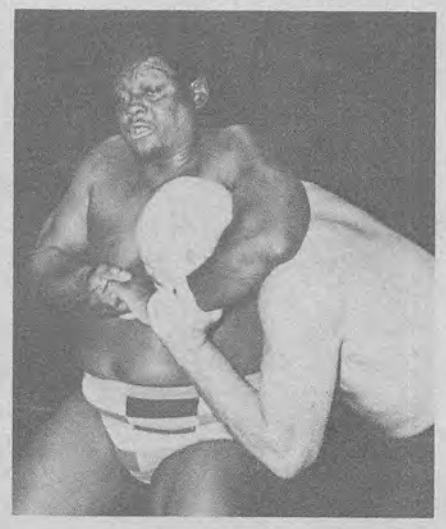
MIGHTY IGOR

The Polish Strong Man whose powerful holds and ponderous manner of wrestling, coupled with an intrinsic decency, makes him a big fan favorite . . . Speaks little English . . . Has a habit of eating kielbasa in the ring . . . Friendly, child-like personality who loves children . . . Likes to wave greetings to the fans in the crowd . . . Could surprise Bockwinkle . . . May be good-naturedly impervious to AWA champion's vicious tactics . . . Rapidly developing into a symbol of immigrant integrity in professional wrestling.

RUFUS R. JONES

Another clever fan favorite . . . Has yet to achieve the level of success predicted for him . . . Employs a curious mixture of scientific wrestling and brawling . . . Favorite hold is the "Head-Butt," a maneuver which evokes crescendos of joy from the multitudes of maniacal fans he has . . . Is not afraid of brawling with his opponents, though he will maintain a stoic facade until the moment when foe's treachery compels a cut-throat approach . . . Has enough talent and courage to give Bockwinkle a hard battle.





THE MEN SAT around the table, examining photos and reports. There were over 100 matches, featuring the most beautiful women wrestlers in the world. Every so often, a photo from this priceless collection would reveal a woman bleeding, battered, a limb grotesquely bent from a break. It was a collection of the best and worst of apartment wrestling history.

The men were examining these photos because they were faced with a crisis. Apartment wrestling, created as a spectacle to celebrate the ferocious grace of women, had turned into a place for horrible, maiming brawls. The reason for this slow but sure descent into the gutter of brutality was unknown. The men were determined to find out.

The leader of this conference was Dave Moll. The originator of apartment wrestling, he was determined to save the sport from itself. He would once again return it to an entertainment without cruelty. There had been too many spectacular matches for him to end the concept now.

His mind wandered from the recent matches to the sport's

Violent Conclusion:

IS AP BEC

Violence erupts as the beautiful Tiffany is savaged by the brutal tactics of her opponent, deadly but luscious Marguerita.

origins. As always, he recalled apartment wrestling's first champion, Cynara. The blonde beauty, her exquisite face and voluptuous features emblazoned forever on his memory, reigned for more than a year as champion. Her bouts against Jenny, Salome, and other splendid beauties were legendary. Each bout had a restrained ferocity, never letting savagery obscure the beauty and grace of her every movement. Those matches told the story of apartment wrestling as Moll dreamed it would be told. If the sport disbanded tomorrow, Moll could always

(Continued on page 58)

It looks like the end for Hester as Madge prepares to poke her eyes out. This match turned into one of apartment wrestling's most heated brawls. The matches seem to be getting wilder and wilder.

ARTMENT WRESTLING OMING TOO BRUTAL?

Jenny's hands come in handy to choke the breath out of Emmanuelle. However, her opponent will recover and fight back.

Somewhere in the history of apartment wrestling lies the secret of its transformation from spectacle to savagery. Examining the great matches of the past may provide the answer. It may also reveal the sport must be disbanded immediately!

Michelle has the lead as she ties Sharon up and prepares to smash her. Dave Moll and other top men in apartment wrestling are worried about the violence.

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MAILBAG

(Continued from Page 8)

about wrestling were great.

It's nice that your magazine is willing to devote a large article to a fan, a woman much less. My mother would often rave about Ricky Starr but I'd just dismiss her remarks. Then when I read what Mrs. Tucker had to say, I realized how rich the wrestling heritage is.

And how fortunate wrestling is to have fans like Maggie Tucker.

RANDY BATES
Atlanta, Ga.

A DISGRACE

To put that animal Ken Patera and his favorite move in your "Murderous Trademarks" (Fall 1978) section was an insult to the other fine men you profiled, like Mil Mascaras and Chief Jay Strongbow.

Patera's swinging neckbreaker is not a move but a vicious attempt to maim his opponent. A Mascaras flying bodypress is a real move. It seems you felt you had to placate the rulebreakers. All you did was demean the quality of the article.

LARRY POPE
Rocky Mount, N.C.

AN AMAZING MAGAZINE

You guys are too much. I don't know how you do it, but time and again you manage to get into the wrestler's heads and get them to talk about things other magazines only dream about.

Ken Patera (above) believes in maiming his opponents—not just defeating them. In our "Murderous Trademarks" section (Fall 1978), Patera displayed his swinging neckbreaker (as he uses on Larry Zbyszko below).

I'm talking about "Murderous Trademarks" (Fall 1978). It was a fan's heaven to read through those men's comments about their special maneuvers, how they developed them and the little insights which your magazine does so well. Congratulations, guys.

EDNA MOLLOY
Columbus, Ohio

I BELIEVE MIL

That any responsible person with half a brain would think there is any truth to "Mascaras, Andre and Maivia: Which One Is The

Mil Mascaras is said to be an honest man, and it appears that men like Captain Lou Albano are out to ruin his reputation.

Spy?" (Fall 1978) astounds me. After all the self-serving lies that Lou Albano has dumped on the wrestling world, his word means absolutely nothing.

Mil Mascaras is a man of integrity. He would not lie. He would not spy on his friends. I believe you, Mil. I'm sure your friends and fans across the world agree with me.

BRUCE JEFFERSON
Northport, N.Y. □

DR. A. S. MAKES HIS PATIENTS

SEVERAL INCHES TALLER

By the use of traction the doctor claims to INCREASE THE HEIGHT of his patients by SEVERAL INCHES. (From reports in recent national newspapers.)

Dr. R. L. reports contributing to the INCREASE IN HEIGHT of his patients between the ages of 18 to 25 by as much as 3½". (From the annales of Physical Medicine)

"MAN GROWS to 40 and sometimes 50" according to late Curator of Physical Anthropology of the Smithsonian Institute. Some facts recently confirmed by Washington Doctor.

"The Influence of Exercise on Growth" revealed by U.S. Surgeon. (From the Journal of Experimental Medicine) A controlled group experiment.

"GAINS IN HEIGHT and weight as a result of experiments on boys from 12 to 17." Studies in Physical Development and Posture. (From U.S. Public Health Bulletin.)

Mr. C.A. claims and testifies to HEIGHT INCREASE of 1½" at age of 54.

Mr. A.S. writes to leading newspaper how father INCREASED HEIGHT by 1½".

Medical literature reveals SPINAL GROWTH can be interrupted by excessive pressures and if deformity can be corrected, provided that they have not been irreversibly damaged — GROWTH WILL RESUME. N.Y. Academy of Medicine.

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1978's BEST WRESTLERS

(Continued from Page 12)

must light the torch for hundreds of other wrestlers, and millions of fans. As did last year's winner, WWWF champion Bob Backlund.

LAST YEAR'S INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER: BOB BACKLUND

TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR

Rulebreaker tag teams seem to receive a disproportionate share of publicity, conveying the impression that the only successful tag team is a villainous tag team. It's up to you fans to conclusively decide that. Now, as with other categories, success is the ultimate determinant. Good or bad, you tell us who is the top tag team. Popularity is not to be considered. How good they are is. This is a difficult category to suppress personal feelings, but we depend on fans to be impartial and give us their honest opinions.

LAST YEAR'S TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR: THE ANDERSON BROTHERS

MOST HATED

Finally, the contempt fans feel for some of those especially obnoxious wrestlers can be vented through this category, Most Hated. It evokes emotions of fury at those detestable men who regularly flaunt the rules and make a mockery of the sport. The men

LAST YEAR'S MOST HATED: KEN PATERA

who introduce foreign objects, who giggle at the sight of blood, whose ultimate aim is the crippling of an opponent. You are entitled to decide

(Continued on page 50)

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1978's BEST WRESTLERS

(Continued from Page 49)

Official Fan Ballot

Here are my votes for the Best of 1978:

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR _____

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR _____

MATCH OF THE YEAR _____

MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR _____

TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR _____

RULEBREAKER OF THE YEAR _____

INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR _____

MANAGER OF THE YEAR _____

MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR _____

Send Ballot To:
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who you hate the most. Hate. Raw, cold rage at one man who shall be ignominiously honored in this most despicable of categories.

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Items like integrity and promoting fair play are unimportant in selecting the recipient of this award. The effect the manager has had on his wrestler,

LAST YEAR'S MANAGER OF THE YEAR: THE GRAND WIZARD

both in terms of tangible success and improved skills, must be weighed. This manager must be judged on the strategies he has formulated and the teachings he has been able to impart to his wrestler. As well as motivating his man to greater heights, the manager must be an inspirational figure himself. Last year's winner, The Grand Wizard, illustrates this intriguing combination. □

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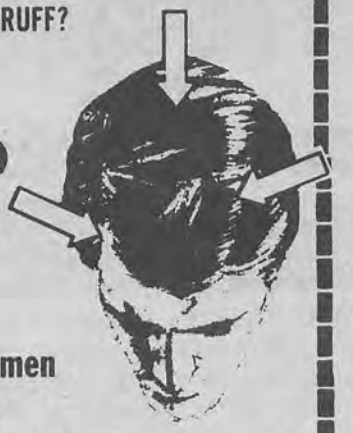

Here's good news—new hope for men and women who have long been searching for a new, different hair and scalp treatment that science has developed to help combat ugly dandruff, itchy scalp, seborrhea, **and help stop the hair loss they may cause.** It's called VITACRIN FORMULA and is based on a European medical discovery! We believe there is nothing known to science that can do more to save your hair and help combat most scalp disorders.

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☐ January 1965 ☐ February 1965
☐ March 1965

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TOP CONTENDERS FOR THE NWA

(Continued from Page 23)

Race has surprised many observers with his tenacious courage. In time, he might go down as one of wrestling's finest champions.

Number one contender is the inimicable Dusty Rhodes, "The American Dream." Dusty, now Southern Champion, has had his wars with Harley. Many feel he is just inches away from the belt.

Young, handsome, talented, all the adjectives commonly used for Rick Steamboat. He has stunned people with his swift rise up the ladder, but it is founded on real ability.

U.S. Champion Ric Flair, one of the most despised men in the world, is number three contender. He didn't get there with chivalry.

Two-time NWA champion Jack Brisco is about ready to reclaim his belt.

At number five is Mid-Atlantic Champion and scoundrel par excellence, Ken Patera. If Flair is despised, Patera is loathed.

Spoiler, reigning Florida champion, has leaped into the sixth position in the championship pole. A devilish masked man, Spoiler could give Race a real tussle.

Former Southern Georgia and Florida champion, Dick Slater may finally be harnessing his considerable skills. Here is a man for whom rankings mean little.

Dory Funk Jr. former NWA champion, is back on the trail of Race's title.

At nine is Bruiser, the current Missouri State champion. And the tenth slot is occupied by Angelo "King Kong" Mosca, Georgia heavyweight champion. Mosca is one of wrestling's most underrated men.

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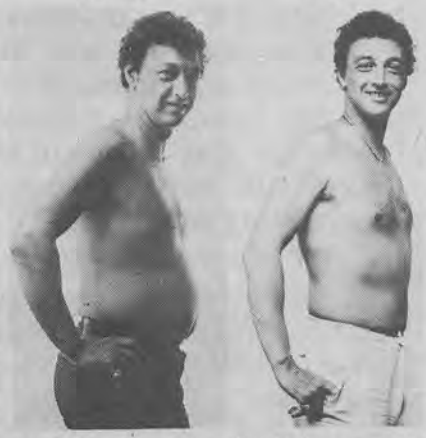

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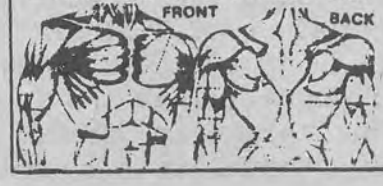

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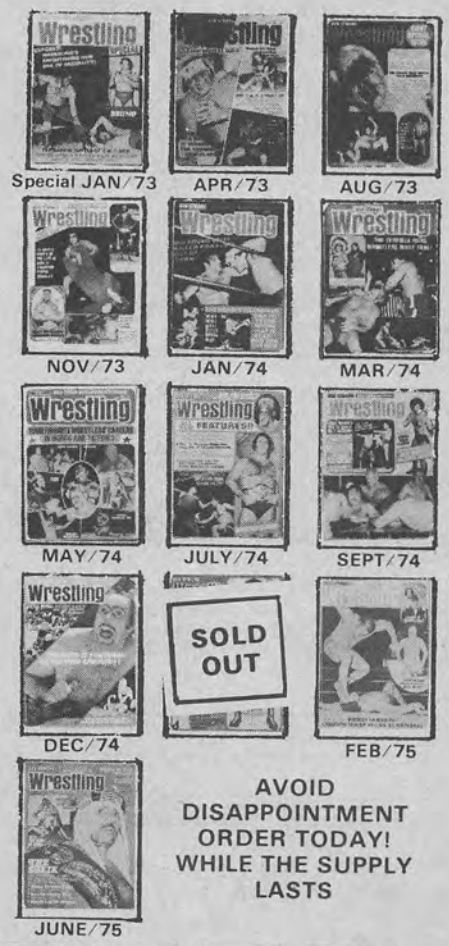

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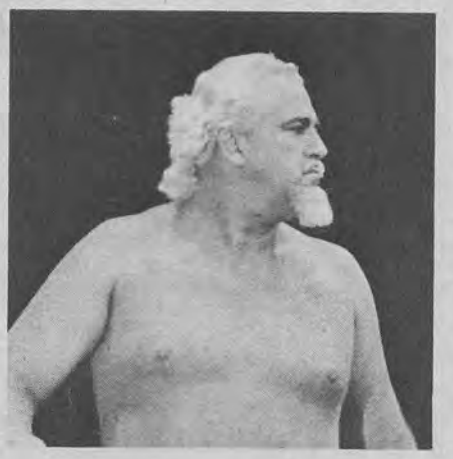
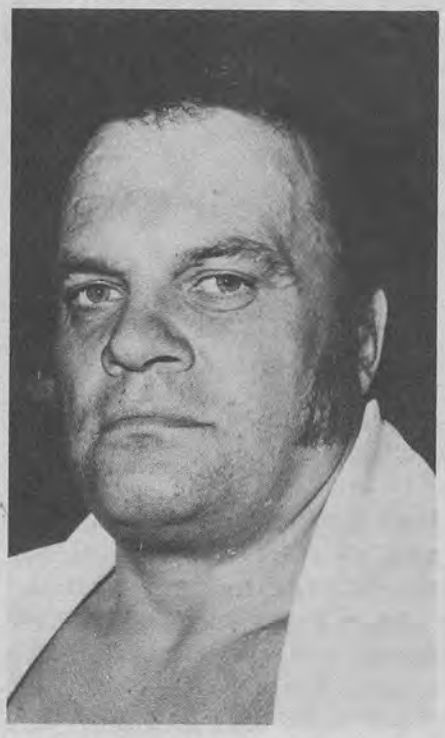
TOP CONTENDERS FOR THE WWWF

(Continued from Page 30)

merciless Superstar Graham last February to take the title. He is a personable and talented young man whose title reign may be one of the longest and most illustrious in wrestling history.

Number one contender is a





former WWWF champion Ivan Koloff. The sickening arrogance of Koloff is difficult to take. But could Backlund handle it?

The "American Dream," Dusty Rhodes, is in heated pursuit of Backlund. Problems have arisen from promoters hesitant to match two scientific wrestlers. That is unfair, for Dusty and Bob Backlund would make a splendid match.

The always obnoxious Superstar Graham is the number three contender. Right behind him is another rulebreaker colleague, Victor Rivera, a former good guy turned evil under the malevolent influence of Fred Blassie.

A man many believe to be wrestling's next superstar, Dino Bravo, is the federation's fifth contender. Presently passing men on his way to Lou Thesz's amazing mark of 142

consecutive matches, winning these matches from an opponent in under fifteen minutes. Bravo's target is really Backlund.

A deranged aberration, "Crazy" Luke Graham, is the sixth contender. Graham has the reasoning faculties of a pear, the strength of an abscessed rhino. Very lethal.

A true gentleman, Ivan Putski, the Polish Prince, is seventh. Then the dreaded Greek, eighth ranked Spiros Arion, urged on by his sinister manager, Fred Blassie.

Ninth is another former champion, Stan Stasiak. And in tenth place is a dangerous veteran, Gorilla Monsoon.

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TOP CONTENDERS FOR THE AWA

(Continued from Page 37)

Gagne occupies the number one contender slot. This man, a brilliant wrestler, still has his sights on regaining his belt.

Former tag team partner of Bockwinkle, Ray Stevens, is another man with a grudge to settle with Bockwinkle. And Heenan.

Stylish gentleman Billy Robinson has had his share of struggles with Bockwinkle. This time he wants the decision going his way.

Wily, inelegantly amiable, Crusher is the number four contender.

Fairly new to the association, Bob Orton Jr. has jumped into the number five slot. As a some time tag team partner of Bockwinkle, his opportunities for an individual match against Nick may be circumscribed. However, loyalty has never been one of Bockwinkle's strong traits.

In six and seven are Jim Brunzell and Greg Gagne respectively. They are two fine, outstanding men with high principles.

Former villain Larry Hennig challenges Bockwinkle from the number eight position. Hennig knows what it's like to be a bad guy, giving him an advantage against Bockwinkle.

Mighty Igor at nine, and Rufus R. Jones, number ten, are two more formidable contenders for the AWA crown.

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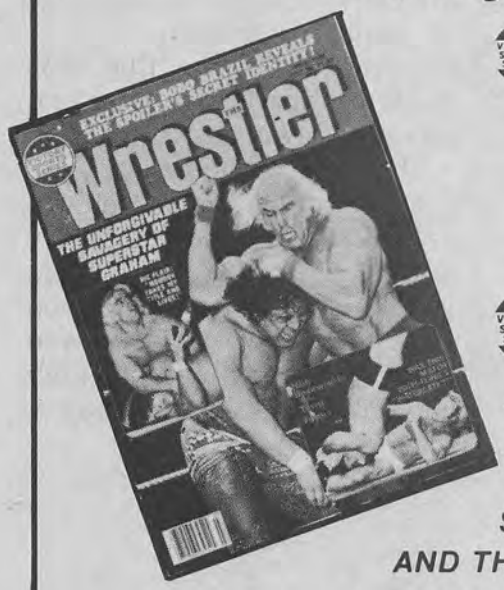

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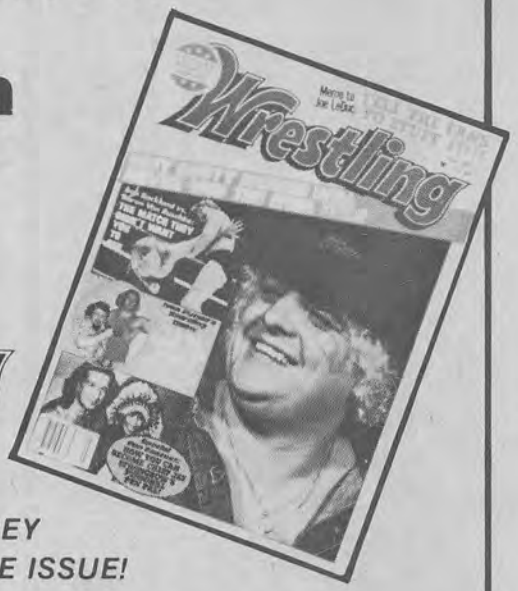

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APARTMENT WRESTLING

(Continued from Page 45)

point with pride at Cynara's matches as exquisite examples of erotic spectacle. It was because of Cynara that Moll believed apartment wrestling could be saved.

Then Moll thought back upon the matches between the heiress Tiffany and the sultry gypsy, Margueritta. These awesomely gorgeous women wrestled three times. Each battle revealed not only their incredible grace and beauty,

Pamela thought she had Belinda all wrapped up for the night, but as you can see, she's far from through.

but also the acid instincts that made them exceptional. As their voluptuous bodies stretched, slid, and jerked, reacting with astounding strength and agility, everyone watching knew that something almost holy was occurring. These were ritual battles, two splendid creatures fighting not only each other but to discover the essence of their souls. The

lines of their bodies in combat were more beautiful than any work of art. Watching their bodies respond to the other's force, almost being able to feel their might, was a scene one will never be able to forget.

Those were the best of times. Yet, something happened. Somewhere along the line, the women became harder, crueler, more ferocious. Grace and beauty were sacrificed for brutality. Finally, there was the match between Bibi and Liv, chronicled in all its horror in SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING/ December 1978. Something had to be done.

Another shot of the brutal match as Tiffany is still helpless against Marguerita. Choking was one of Marguerita's best weapons.

Moll examined the photos once again. There was the second match between Madge and Hester. In their first bout, the two ladies had been splendid. In this second brawl, each tore into the other without any restraint, no thought but to injure. It was ugly in its ferocity; the two women tearing at each other's body, nails and teeth

(Continued on page 62)

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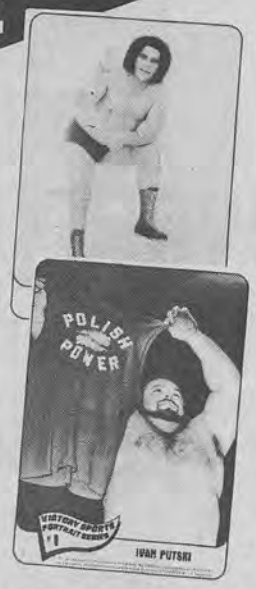

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APARTMENT WRESTLING

(Continued from Page 59)

Marguerita is even dangerous when she doesn't resort to choking as you can plainly see (above). The sport must have less violence and more wrestling as in the formative days of the sport. Madge is about to pull Hester in two different directions (below).

digging into flesh with wanton abandon. Yet, this was only the beginning of apartment wrestling's tales of horror.

From all over the world, reports of brutality filtered back to New York. Jenny and Emmanuelle, wrestling in Paris, were the best of these matches. Although their two bouts were of unequaled ferocity, the first ending in a draw when both women were too battle weary to go on, there was majesty in these matches. Yet, the cruelty each woman showed her opponent made Moll shudder. Something in this match tipped the scales, had crossed the line from magnificent to malevolent.

Michelle twists Sharon's neck and looks like she intends to break it off. Things like this can't be allowed to happen!

Moll examined the photos once again. Last week he had seen the films over and over again. He compared them with Jenny's great match against Cynara. What was the difference? Why was one much more elegant than the other. Was it Cynara? Not really, for Emmanuelle was in every way her equal. Moll invited friends to look over the films and give his opinions. A leading sports writer had seen both films three times. He recognized an incredible difference, but couldn't say exactly what the difference was.

"It was as if Jenny and Emmanuelle wanted something different than Cynara," he theorized. "They did the same things, but for different reasons. Their intent to be brutal made the match more brutal. It wasn't what they did, but what they wanted."

Moll had called Jenny the next day and asked her the difference between the two matches.

"I'm not the same person I

(Continued on page 64)

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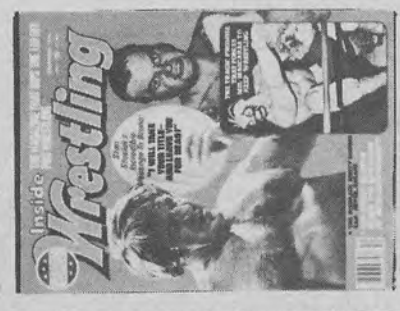

APARTMENT WRESTLING

(Continued from Page 63)

Cited as extremely violent are matches like Hester vs. Madge (above) and Sharon against the vicious Michelle (below).

was then," Jenny said, "I want different things. The world keeps changing, and that makes people change. A few yeas ago I believed in grace, beauty, and the thrill of competition. Now I believe in victory. I'm into Scientology, too. It helps. Do you want me to send you a booklet on it?"

Moll thanked her for the offer but declined. Now, looking at more photos, he wondered if the times had conspired to destroy apartment wrestling. Brutality is the order of the day. Why should he expect apartment wrestling to avoid it?

There was always hope, he thought. But looking at the photos again, he realized hope didn't stand much of a chance.

Match after match exposed the sport's furious viciousness. It was a study in torture.

Moll studied photos of the match between Belinda and Pamela. The cruelty of the women was etched in the features of their faces. These were fearsome women, intent on pain and destruction. Moll examined the photos of Pamela astride Belinda. The blonde's lush body was clearly in agony from Pamela digging her nails deep into Belinda's neck and back. One could almost feel Belinda's agony. Yet, this has become a common occurrence in apartment wrestling.

Then there was the match between Michelle and Sharon (aptly entitled "Apartment Wrestling Trial By Torture" when it appeared in SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING/November 1978). These two hard-bitten beauties warred like jungle cats. No limb escaped being bruised or twisted. Their bodies flew through the air. They battled to the limits of human endurance. Then they went one step beyond. For some, the match had the fascination of a death fight between a mongoose and a cobra. Others found it a despicable exhibition of wrestling cruelty. Moll was ashamed at the excitement he felt witnessing this match. Apartment wrestling once appealed to a man's noble delight in beauty. Now it captured the dark side of his soul.

Moll turned to his friends. They had seen the same photos, thought the same thoughts. Now, they needed answers.

There was silence.

"Let's give it a few more months," Moll suggested, "see what happens, hope to find some solutions."

"Then what?" someone asked.

There was silence. □

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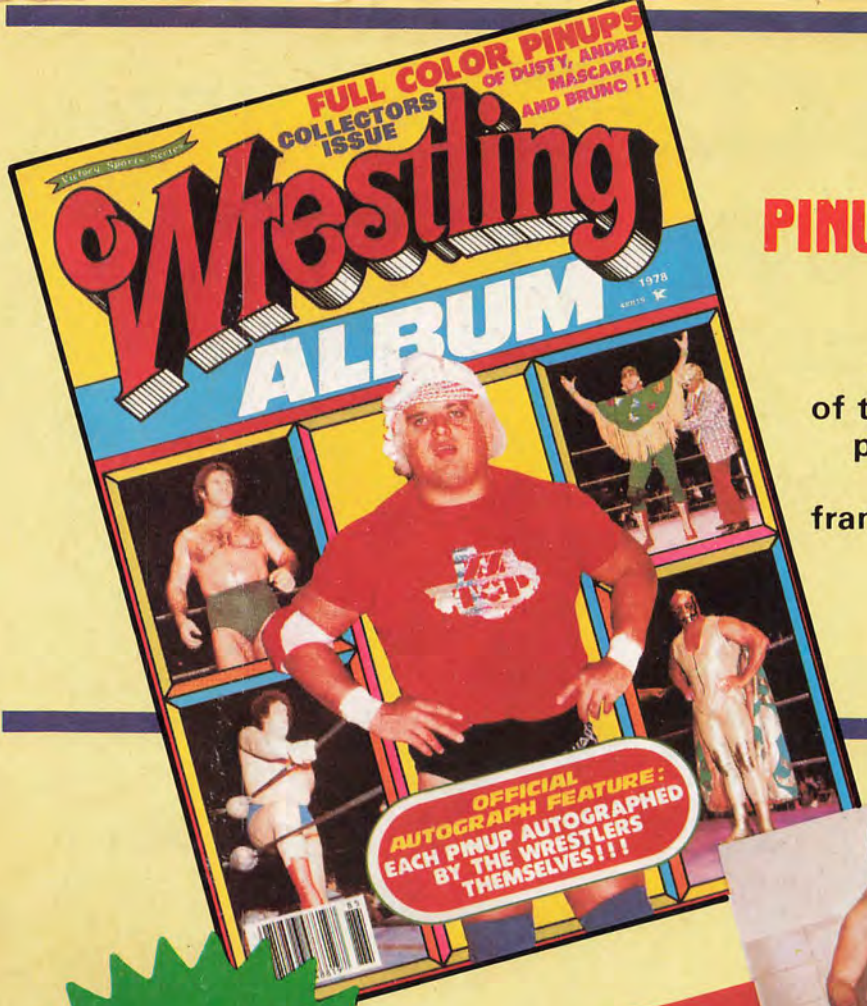

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